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'Make India a Super Power, Tamil Nadu a premier State'

Independence Day Message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. ***Edappadi K. Palaniswami*** *on 14.08.2018 (English Translation)*

"I am happy to extend my hearty Independence Day greetings to all our countrymen on this exhilarating day that marks the winning of Independence from the imperialist British who came to India to trade and gradually enslaved us.

Tamil Nadu was full of *tyagis* of the first order (*Thyaga Chemmalgal*) who, with no regard for their lives, laid them down for the freedom of India and broke the shackles of slavery through ahimsa without giving room for violence. With the country's freedom as the sole goal and with no consideration for self, they dedicated their lives to the freedom of the country. Independence Day, is the golden day for remembering the *tyagis* of the freedom struggle.

By way of honouring the freedom struggle tyagis who fought to free our mother-land, the Tamil Nadu Government that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, increased the monthly pension for them from Rs.12,000 to Rs.13,000, the family pension to their heirs from Rs.6.000 to Rs.6,500 and the special monthly pension to the heirs of Veerapandia Kattabomman, Marudhu Brothers, Muthuramalinga Vijaya Ragunatha Sethupathy and V.O.Chidambaranar from Rs.6,000 to Rs.6,500. For edifying future generations about the immeasurable sacrifices made by freedom fighters and for paying homage to them, memorials have been erected and are maintained for many tyagis such as Tyagi Subramania Siva Manimandapam, Tyagi Dheeran Chinnamalai monument, Tyagi Vanchinathan Manimandapam, Veera Mangai Velu Nachiyar Ninaivu Mandapam, Veera Thai Kuyili monument, Veerapandia Kattabomman Manimandapam, Tyagi Sundaralinganar Manimandapam and Hyder Ali and Tippu Sultan Manimandapam in Dindigul District. Their memorials, memorial sites, memorial houses, monuments and manimandapams are also renovated. Moreover, by way of honouring the freedom struggle tyagis, their Birth Anniversaries are celebrated by the Tamil Nadu Government.

I make the request on this great day that all of us should work tirelessly, transcending differences of caste and religion and with the sense of unity that we are Indians, to safeguard the freedom we have won, to turn India into a Super Power and to make Tamil Nadu a prosperous model State. Once again, my hearty Independence Day good wishes to all of you."

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“Forgetting caste, religious, linguistic and racial distinctions, all live in Tamil Nadu as siblings in a family. Tamil Nadu shines as an excellent state of secularism.”

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami

- Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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First Wrapper

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, hoisted
the National Flag on the ramparts of
Fort St. George at the Secretariat
on the occasion of the 72nd Independence Day
on 15.08.2018 and paid his respects.

'Tamil Nadu making all-round progress towards position of premier State'

Independence Day Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami on 15.08.2018 *(English Translation).*

Paying obeisance to Goddess Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma,

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha Brother Dr.M.Thambidurai, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Brother Thiru. O.Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Brother Thiru. P. Dhanapal, Hon'ble Chief Justice of Madras High Court, Hon'ble Ministers, Hon'ble Judges of the Madras High Court, Hon'ble Members of Parliament, Hon'ble Members of the Legislative Assembly, former Ministers, former MPs and MLAs, Chief Secretary to Tamil Nadu Government Tmt. Girija Vaidyanathan, high officials of Tamil Nadu Government, Government employees, Director General of Police Thiru. T.K.Rajendran, high officials of the Police Department, employees and police personnel, top officials of Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, Central Reserve Police Force, honourable freedom struggle *tyagis*, respected elders, ladies, youth, students, newspaper and media friends - my affectionate regards and pleasant 72nd Independence Day good wishes to all of you.

Mahakavi Bharathiar sang the glory of our National Flag thus:

"Thaayin manikodi paareer – Adhai
thaazhndhu panindhu pugazhndhida vaareer"
('See the precious flag of our Mother (Land); come, to reverentially bow and praise it').

I am proud to hoist our majestic flag on this day for a second time with the blessings of Hon'ble Amma.

We got freedom as a result of thousands of our freedom fighters' toil for many

years, sacrificing their belongings and lives. Tamil Nadu was a State full of *tyagis* of the first order ("*chemmalgal*") who sacrificed their lives for India's freedom, considering their lives as a mere tuppence. Tamil Nadu has the distinction as the region of *tyagis* who smashed the shackles of bondage in the non-violent way shown by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

In the beginning it was an armed struggle but it changed into a non-violent struggle after the entry of *Gandhi Adigal*. We can proudly say that in both these kinds of struggle, Tamil Nadu played a major role. We should ever cherish the historic personages of the freedom struggle.

According to history, the 'sepoy mutiny' in North India is India's first freedom struggle. But, long before that mutiny, there was a revolution against the British, more or less for the same reasons, on July 10, 1806 at Vellore. Hence, we can consider that the sacrificial fire for India's freedom struggle was lit in Tamil Nadu and be proud of it.

Countless leaders of Tamil Nadu like Marudhu Brothers, Maaveeran Dheeran Chinnamalai, Vellaiyathevan, Veeran Poolithevan, Veerapandia Kattabomman, Veeran Azhagu Muthukone, V.O.Chidambaranar, Thiruppur Kumaran, Velu Nachiyar, Veera Thaai Kuyili, Gopal Naicker, Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar, Tyagi Srinivasa Rao, Omandur Ramasamy Reddiar, Tyagi Viswanatha Das, Embodiment of Dignity Quaid–e–Millath, Rebel Muthuramalinga Sethupathy, Va.Ve.Su. Iyer, Shenbagaraman, Thillaiyadi Valliammai, Veerar Sundaralingam, Subramania Siva, Mootharignar Rajaji, Dheerar Sathyamurthy, Thanthai Periyar, Perunthalaivar Kamarajar and poets like Mahakavi Bharathiar, Paavendar Bharathidasan and Namakkal Kavignar Ramalingam who kindled the flame of freedom, and members of the public made numerous sacrifices and spread the yearning for freedom. All of us should cherish the sacrifice of the heroic tyagis who laid down their lives for the freedom we now enjoy. We should tell the next generation about their sacrifices and greatness. It is for this that the Tamil Nadu Government has set up manimandapams, installed statues at important places and is organizing celebrations by way of honouring their sacrifices.

The Government is implementing many schemes for freedom fighters and their families like pension, medical facilities, bus pass at no cost, priority in appointments and house allotment.

This is the time to look back at the works executed for our Country's development and people's welfare in the last 71 years since getting Independence. From the day this Government took over administration with the blessings of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, till date, I have inaugurated, across the State, 41,031 works that have been completed at a cost of Rs.22,439.92 crore and laid foundation for 7,596 new scheme works, worth Rs.16,681.84 crore.

Our Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma said: "The best people's Government is the one that rules in a way that brings prosperity to the people so that they get all things. In such a regime alone, the poor can get facilities on par with the well-to-do." Hon'ble Amma, not only stated this, but showed it in action also. Hon'ble Amma's Government, that has followed her, is also framing and implementing many schemes for people's welfare.

Hon'ble Amma toiled for the people of Tamil Nadu, for their welfare and for Tamil Nadu's economic growth, till the end of her life without caring for her personal life. Hon'ble Amma's Government has issued orders for the construction of a Ninaivu mandapam to such a person, on the Marina beach and for converting the house where she lived into a memorial for people to visit.

In the history of Tamil Nadu, this year should be etched in golden letters for making true the great saying: "The fertile Chola Country is abundant in food". As a result of the legal battles waged in courts by Hon'ble Amma, and following her, by Hon'ble Amma's Government, the Cauvery Management Authority and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee have been set up. Hon'ble Amma's Government got this historic judgment. As per the decision of the Cauvery Management Authority, we got 9.19 t.m.c. ft. water, due for the month of June. For the month of July, the quantum of water we should get is 31.24 t.m.c. ft. water. But due to Nature's bounty, the south west monsoon became vigorous and more than one lakh cusecs of water flowed into Mettur Dam and the Dam reached its full storage level

twice, after 5 years. On July 19, I opened the Mettur dam for irrigation in the Delta Districts.

Hon'ble Amma's Government that follows the footsteps of Hon'ble Amma, is determined to provide quality education to all. The proof of this is the very high allocation of Rs.27,205.88 crore made to the Department of School Education in the 2018-2019 budget. The many welfare schemes implemented by Hon'ble Amma for a bright future for school students, are being continued by this Government, recording achievements in the field of school education.

In the field of higher education, Hon'ble Amma started 65 Arts and Science Colleges. After that, this Government, that functions on the lines of Amma, started 11 Government Arts and Science Colleges in the last year. As a result of these, the enrolment in higher education today has risen to 48.6 percent. The very fact that Tamil Nadu has become the premier State in India in this respect is eloquent testimony to the efforts taken by this Government that runs the administration with the blessings of Hon'ble Amma.

I am happy to say that I was born in a farmer's family and live as a farmer. This Government protects the welfare of farmers. I wish to underline some of the steps taken by this Government to light up the lives of farmers.

As a result of the steps taken by this Government to usher in a second green revolution in Tamil Nadu, food grain production had crossed 100 lakh metric tonnes five times and thus established a record between the years 2011-2012 and 2017-2018. A '*kuruvai* package scheme' is being implemented at a cost of Rs.115.67 crore for protecting the interests of delta farmers. A 'rain-fed special package scheme' is being implemented at a cost of Rs.802.90 crore. A collective farming scheme is implemented on an allotment of Rs.100 crore by bringing together 2 lakh

small and micro farmers, for encouraging this system of cultivation. Under the Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme, crops in 31.85 lakh acres were insured in 2016-2017. Insurance companies sanctioned, on an unprecedented scale, Rs.3,457 crore (towards compensation) under this scheme and it is being distributed to affected farmers. Hon'ble Amma's Government has given permission for production of 'Neera drink' from coconut trees and took steps to double the income of coconut farmers.

To meet the drinking water needs of people in full, the Tamil Nadu Government is implementing water supply scheme works in many places across the State at a cost of Rs.1,824.20 crore. To protect the water resources, the traditional system of water management – *Kudimaramathu* - was revived and is implemented as a movement by this Government from 2016-2017. This scheme continues to be implemented in 2018-2019 at a cost of Rs.328.95 crore. To oversee these works, IAS officers are appointed. The scheme of distributing at no cost the sediments of lakes and canals – clay, alluvial, savudu and saralai sand – to pottery workers and farmers is implemented by this Government. On account of this scheme, dredging the Mettur Dam after 83 years, was directly inaugurated by me on 28.05.2017. Through this scheme, lake, canal and dam sediments, amounting to 6,51,65,000 cubic metre were distributed to 5,83,539 beneficiaries.

Sanction has been accorded to implement, from State funds, the Athikadavu-Avinashi scheme at a cost of Rs.1,652 crore to benefit the Districts of Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Erode. Steps are being taken to construct a barrage across *Kollidam* river between the villages of Adhanur and Kumaramangalam in the Districts

of Cuddalore and Nagapattinam, at a cost of Rs.400 crore. A scheme for renovation and development of dams is being implemented at a cost of Rs.745.49 crore. Sixty-nine dams under the Water Resources Department and 20 under the Electricity Generation and Distribution Corporation will benefit.

Forgetting caste, religious, linguistic and racial distinctions, all live in Tamil Nadu as siblings in a family. Tamil Nadu shines as an excellent State of secularism. To facilitate Muslims undertake Haj pilgrimage, Amma's Government that follows the footsteps of Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has issued orders, sanctioning Rs.6 crore every year from this year. I am happy to say that through this scheme 3,780 persons have benefited in this year alone. A women's hostel is proposed to be constructed with Government's financial assistance, at a place owned by Wakf Board, for the working women of the Muslim community. The number of Christian pilgrims going to Jerusalem on pilgrimage has been increased from 500 to 600 from this year.

Under the Public Distribution System, 1,96,94,132 new smart family cards have been issued till the end of this July. Hon'ble Amma's Government has issued orders banning the use of 'use and throw' plastic articles from 01.01.2019 as all of us have a duty to leave the natural resources in a good condition to future generations. To implement this successfully, I request all people on this occasion to co-operate.

The work of Government servants is essential in making Government's viewpoints and welfare schemes reach the people. The recommendations of the Central Government's 7th Pay Commission were implemented for Government servants and teachers in a short period of time. Under the new medical insurance scheme, the insurance cover to Government servants is Rs.4 lakh and for some intensive treatments, it is up to Rs.7.50 lakh.

Transport workers' demands have been accepted and their pay increase has been announced by this Government. It has also disbursed the arrears, caused by the pay hike, to them. Besides, the Tamil Nadu Government gave Rs.2,247.39 crore towards settlement of arrears to transport corporation pensioners, kept pending for many years.

Taking into account the needs of the people, air-conditioned deluxe bus service with toilet and sleeper facilities and other types of deluxe bus services were introduced last month, the first ever in the history of Government express transport corporation.

Realizing the necessity of providing transport facilities commensurate with the rising population, Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing the Metro Rail Scheme for connecting the various terminals in Chennai. In this project, I inaugurated in May last, the 4.35 km long underground Metro Rail Transport Service between Little Mount and AG-DMS stations. The Government is taking steps for laying tracks between Madhavaram and Sholinganallur and between Madhavaram and Koyambedu in Phase II of the Metro Rail Project.

To further incentivize the growth of textile industry, an international textile exhibition is proposed to be held at Coimbatore at a cost of Rs. 2 crore.

The Chief Minister's Comprehensive Medical Insurance Scheme is implemented so as to provide health service to all. In the last 7 years, 27.80 lakh persons have benefited to a value of Rs.4,880 crore. In pregnant women mortality rate, our State is one of the 3 States that have achieved in the year 2016 itself the target to be achieved within 2030 in stable growth and thus established a record and won Central Government award also for it. For the development of the Department of Health and Family Welfare, this Government has accomplished many immeasurable achievements. In continuation of this, Hon'ble Amma and after her, Hon'ble Amma's Government have put in ceaseless efforts, resulting, I am happy to say, in the proposed setting up of AIIMS hospital at a cost of about Rs.1,500 crore at Thopur in Madurai District.

The Tamil Nadu Government is vigorously implementing the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act 2016 in the interests of the poor and middle class people who have purchased unapproved plots.

To realize the dream of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma of creating a slum-free Tamil Nadu, this Government is implementing many schemes. In accordance with this, I am proud to say that 1.30 lakh houses will be constructed this year at a cost of Rs.2,276 crore under the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme and 20,000 more houses, at a cost of Rs.420 crore under the Chief Minister's Solar Power Green House Scheme. Under the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme – Housing for All - 4.25 lakh apartments are being constructed in urban areas at a cost of Rs.16,776 crore. For the current year, this Government has allotted Rs.2,301.30 crore for this project. In the Government's share of funds to the Local Bodies, Rs.100 crore will be set apart, from this year, for improving the basic facilities in Adi Dravidar colonies.

Orders have been issued to implement, with Central Government participation, the 'BharatNet – Internet service to Village Panchayats scheme' in all village panchayats in Tamil Nadu for making available all Government services to rural people, to realize the goal of 'Development for All'.

It is estimated that Tamil Nadu's software export in 2017-2018 will be Rs.1,11,179 crore and the number of software experts 6.38 lakh. The Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation has distributed at no cost 23.99 lakh Set Top boxes so that people can enjoy more channels and quality telecast at reduced rates. H.D Set Top boxes are also distributed to subscribers.

The efficiency displayed by all the Departments of the Tamil Nadu Government during the Ockhi storm helped people to return to normal life quickly.

Hon'ble Amma had functioned as a friend of fisherfolk. The relentless efforts and firm actions of this Government that follows in her footsteps, secured the release of 460 fishermen of Tamil Nadu and their 26 fishing boats from Sri Lanka custody, 46 fishermen from Iran prisons and 10 fishermen from Oman prisons. They have returned to Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Amma announced in the 2016 Assembly election manifesto that two wheelers would be distributed at subsidized rates to working women. By way of translating that announcement into action, this scheme was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on Hon'ble Amma's Birth Anniversary on

24.02.2018. Till date, I am proud to say, 16,903 women have received a subsidy of Rs.36.69 crore under this scheme.

Puratchi Kavignar Bharathidasan said: "*Thamizhundu Thamizh Makkalundu – Inba Thamizhukku Naalum Seivome Nalla Thondu*" ('There is the Tamil language; There are Tamils; We will serve the pleasant Tamil language every day'). To make this true, the Tamil Nadu Government has given Rs.10 crore for creating a Chair for Tamil in the Harvard University in USA.

Tamil Nadu has left its imprint in the field of tourism also. The Tourism Department of the Central Government has announced that Tamil Nadu has captured the premier place in India in the arrival of tourists, both inland and foreign, in 2017. I am proud to say that Tamil Nadu has held this record continuously for 5 years from 2013 to 2017, in respect of inland tourists and for 4 years continuously from 2014 to 2017, in respect of foreign tourists. In 2017 alone, 34.50 crore inland tourists and 48.60 lakh foreign tourists visited Tamil Nadu.

When Hon'ble Amma took over the administration in 2011, Tamil Nadu was a power deficit State. Due to the many steps taken by Hon'ble Amma, it is a power surplus State now. This is revealed in the Central Electricity Authority's Load-Generation Balance Reports for the years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. Tamil Nadu continues to be an electricity surplus state due to the administrative efficiency of this Government that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Amma. In the field of Energy, I am happy to mention that the installed capacity of new and renewable energy touched a peak of 11,113 MW on 31.03.2018 and captured the premier place in the Country. This is all due to the extraordinary steps taken and implemented by Hon'ble Amma in the field of Energy.

If the State is to achieve economic development through proper implementation of Government schemes and if inland entrepreneurs and multi-national companies are to invest and start industries in the State, peace should prevail through good maintenance of law and order. Hon'ble Amma was aware of this, gave importance to the maintenance of law and order, accorded priority to the free functioning of police honestly and efficiently without any interference, created the correct environment for them and gave them the necessary modern facilities. Through this, we can establish the first of Hon'ble Amma's triple principles - 'Peace, Prosperity, Progress' – and through implementing development and welfare schemes to achieve prosperity and progress – we can realize Hon'ble Amma's 'Vision 2023 Document' goals in time.

"*Ayutham seivom Nalla kagitham seivom; Aalaigal vaippom Kalvi Salaigal Vaippom*" ('we will produce weapons and good paper; establish factories and educational institutions'), said Mahakavi Bharathiar. This Government is taking many steps to bring to fruition that dream and make Hon'ble Amma's "Vision 2023 Document" a total success through an industrial revolution in the State. It is planned to conduct a second "Global Investors Meet" in January 2019. Preliminary works for this Meet are under way.

An integrated single window online system has been started in Tamil Nadu as a part of ease of doing business in the State. This will facilitate services from 11 Government Departments in respect of getting various kinds of clearances and renewals for industries.

As per a memorandum of understanding entered into with the CEAT company by Hon'ble Amma's Government, a tyre manufacturing factory is to be set up shortly at Sriperumbudur, Kancheepuram District at a cost of Rs.4,000 crore.

Tamil Nadu has the second largest economy in India as it has both human resources and natural resources. Also, with a share of 16 and 16.24 percent in the number of industries and in the number of employed, Tamil Nadu occupies the premier place in the Country. The Reserve Bank's report on Foreign Direct Investment was presented in the Parliament recently. The report mentions that Tamil Nadu got 56 percent more investment in 2017-2018 compared to earlier years. As if to authenticate it, The National Council of Applied Economic also has stated at the end of conducting research in 21 States, that Tamil Nadu is in the second place after Delhi, in attracting industrial investment in 2018. In the 2017 survey, Tamil Nadu was in the sixth place and it jumped four places ahead and captured the second place in the 2018 survey. This shows Tamil Nadu Government's excellent work. This survey also places Tamil Nadu in the first place in the categories of administrative efficiency, political stability and best work-force. These reports confirm that Tamil Nadu is walking majestically on the path of industrial growth.

The Central Government has given approval for the implementation of schemes worth Rs.1 lakh crore like laying new roads, construction of bridges, widening of existing roads and development of harbours in the State.

The Public Affairs Centre of Bengaluru publishes reports about the performance of

State Governments on the basis of socio-economic development under 10 heads, which include children's development rate in the state, law and order, dispensation of justice, economic independence, environment, essential infrastructure, financial management and women and children care and evaluates against 100 factors and awards grades on Government's activities. In its report for the year 2018, it has stated that Tamil Nadu is the second best State in governance. This is a certificate for this State Government's administrative efficiency.

By way of fulfilling Hon'ble Amma's aim, I firmly declare that Hon'ble Amma's Government will continue to toil for uplifting Tamil Nadu as a premier State. True Independence is making available all the basic needs of people – drinking water, food, education, house, health, electricity, industry, agriculture, water management, employment opportunity, safety - and economic development. I wish to inform you all, that Tamil Nadu, fulfilling all these needs, remains a model State.

Hon'ble Amma's Government gives importance to sports and is implementing many schemes for its development. For encouraging sportspersons, steps will be taken to make internal reservation in jobs up to 2 percent in Tamil Nadu Government service or in Tamil Nadu Government public sector establishments for medallists in approved games and competitions. Medallists (gold, silver or bronze) representing Tamil Nadu in National senior-level competitions conducted by recognized sports federations, in competitions conducted on behalf of our State or those belonging to Tamil Nadu, who have won medals or have represented our Country in recognized international events, are eligible for this job reservation. After a high-level committee headed by the Chief Secretary frames detailed guidelines for this, this scheme will be implemented.

Our Tamil Nadu is a State which was full of tyagis who laid down their lives for India's freedom. By way of honouring the '*tyaga chemmals*' who dedicated their whole lives for the Country's freedom, I am happy to state that their pension will be raised from the present Rs.13,000 to Rs.15,000, the family pension to their heirs from Rs.6,500 to Rs.7,500 and the special pension to the heirs of those who had participated in the freedom struggle and did service in a notable way, from Rs.6,500 to Rs.7,500.

On this good day, let us take a pledge to work hard to uplift this Country, freed by our freedom fighters, on par with developed Countries in all respects and particularly, Tamil Nadu, into a premier State in India.

Vaazhga Anna Naamam! Valarga Puratchi Thalaivar Avargal Pugazh! Onguha Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Avargalin Keerthi! Thodarga Manbumigu Amma Avargalin Aatchi!

We will create an economically strong Tamil Nadu and a united Bharath!

Nandri! Vanakkam!.

'Tamil Nadu occupies top position in implementing educational schemes'

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** after declaring open an auditorium and additional class room buildings at the Government Girls' Higher Secondary School, Krishnagiri on 01.07.2018 *(English Translation)*.

Bowing to Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma,

I am extremely happy to participate in the opening ceremony of the auditorium and additional class room buildings at the Government Girls' Higher Secondary School at Krishnagiri.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O.Panneerselvam who has put forth brilliant ideas in this pleasant function, Hon'ble Minister for School Education Thiru.K.A.Sengottaiyan who has delivered the 'Precedential' address, Hon'ble Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Thiru.P.Balakrishna Reddy who has delivered a brief address, former Minister Thiru.K.P.Munusamy who has greatly helped in making the auditorium look grand, Respected Thiru. K. Ashok Kumar, Krishnagiri MP, Respected Tmt. N. Manoranjitham Nagaraj, Oothankarai MLA, Respected Thiru.C.V.Rajendran, Bargur MLA, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Thiru. K.P. Anbalagan, Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise Thiru.P. Thangamani, Thiru. Maitreyan, MP, Thiru. Govindaraj, former MLA, the District Collector who has delivered the Presidential Address, officials of the Education Department, Executives of the Parent-Teacher Association, Teachers, Parents, Students, Press and Media friends – I offer my respects to all of you.

A proverb has it that "when a new school is opened, at least 10 prisons will come to be closed down". Hence Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi

Amma opened more number of schools in her rule. That is why Tamil Nadu remains a State with very low number of crimes and a garden of peace. The entire credit for this goes to the schools and their service-minded teachers.

Valluvar says "Study and learn with clarity what is worthy of learning and stand firm by their norms of virtue". Along with the academic education, skillful life education alone will turn a student into an excellent human being. Today's need is not learning for writing examinations but, education for leading life. On this basis, new syllabi have been prepared with the help of experts for students in Government schools. Teachers and students acclaim that the new syllabi can equip the students to face State and National- level competitions. These syllabi have not been prepared in a lackluster manner but with the new technology to uplift students.

The old adage was that change is the dictum of human life. The new adage is that change is the truth of student life. A nation's new flowering and resurgence starts with its students.

There is a modern Tamil poem which asks, which bamboo in this bamboo forest is a flute. Many in the audience seated before me, may rise up in the future as scientists, political leaders, administrators, high officials, judges, doctors, engineers and teachers. The present-day society welcomes only that teacher who stimulates original thinking in students and makes it glow than the one who merely teaches in a classroom or kindles interest in education. Hence, we need today only that education that goes beyond learning and teaching, to promote original thinking. You would have realized after going through the new text books that the present syllabi have been shaped encompassing such a system of education.

If the standard and appearance of Government schools have changed to the extent that now there is no difference between Government and private schools, it was Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who sowed the seed for it. A big change and renaissance have swept into the methods of teaching and learning in Government schools today. We can be proud that the educational schemes framed by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma are responsible for this renaissance.

The Tamil Nadu Government is determined to provide, on the lines of Hon'ble Amma, quality education to all. The proof for this is the highest allocation of Rs.27,205.88 crore to the Department of School Education, made in the 2018-2019 Budget.

The tension felt by students has been reduced on account of the announcement, at the beginning of the academic year itself, of the dates of examination and results for the public examinations for students of 10th, 11th and 12th standards. This was made possible due to very clear planning.

Many schemes are implemented for students in Tamil Nadu, on a scale not seen in any other State. I am proud to say that the Education Departments in other States are implementing just a few of our educational schemes. In

Tamil Nadu, the Government is providing at no cost, four sets of school uniforms, woollen shirt (for students in hill stations), laptops, school bags, geometry box, footwear, colour pencil, crayons, atlas, text books, note books, bicycle, bus pass and noon meals. Special incentive to reduce dropping out and financial assistance to those who have lost the bread winner in the family are also given. Amma's Government allotted Rs.967.47 crore for these schemes in 2018-2019.

The practice of announcing grades on the basis of marks in public examinations, has been dispensed with. This step has reduced the stress in students, teachers and parents and given them peace of mind.

Public examination for 11th standard students has been introduced from 2017-2018 academic year.

In 2017-2018, the 10th and 12th standards public examinations results were sent through SMS to the 20 lakh students who took those examinations, in just 2 minutes after the publication of the results. The practice of printing the student's name in Tamil in mark certificates has been introduced from the March 2017 public examination.

The facility to digitize students mark certificates for preservation and authenticity, has been created for the first time in the Directorate of Government examinations.

Hitech Laboratories are proposed to be set up in 3,090 high schools and 2,939 higher secondary schools at a cost of Rs.438 crore to keep pace with the growing technological developments. Coaching classes for Medical and Engineering competitive examinations are conducted with V-SAT technology at 412 centres at the rate of one for each Panchayat Union. Besides, the School Education Department is conducting Residential Coaching Centres for competitive examinations at 11 places across the State, an unprecedented initiative in the history of Education Department in India.

Infrastructure facilities have been created in Government schools on par with those in private schools. New school buildings, laboratories, additional class rooms, toilets and drinking water facilities, costing Rs.1,072.70 crore have been created in Government schools from the year 2011 to 2017. 968 building works were taken up at a cost of Rs.66.11 crore in 2017-2018,

227 new primary schools were started from 2013 up to 2016-2017; 51 schools were upgraded as middle schools. In 2017-2018, sanction was accorded for starting 20 new primary schools. 979 middle schools were upgraded as high schools and 504 high schools as higher secondary schools.

During her regime, Amma gave 65 Arts and Science Colleges to enable students from the poor and marginalized sections of society access higher education at low fees. Amma's Government that follows the footsteps of Amma, opened last year, 11 Government Arts and Science Colleges in the interest of students. Amma's Government created conditions for

even poor students to study higher education at a low tuition fee by opening, a number of colleges like polytechnic college, I.T.I. college, medical college, agriculture college, veterinary sciences college and engineering college during the regime of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. As a result of implementing so many schemes, the percentage of students taking to higher education which was 21 during the regime of Amma in 2011, rose to nearly 46.94 percentage now, pushing Tamil Nadu into the premier position in the Country of having the highest number of students enrolled in higher studies.

This educational revolution will bring about a change of heart in private school students to willingly opt for Government schools. The reason behind it, is the change effected in the method of imparting education – from a difficult and rigorous style to a pleasant and easy one. On this occasion, I wish to request teachers to first create an awareness among students about education and then start the work of teaching.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma said: "Zero tolerance to illiteracy is my policy and the Government's aim". This has come true. The enrolment in primary classes which was 99.63 percent in 2011-2012 rose to 99.86 percent in 2017-2018 and in the upper primary classes from 98.88 percent in 2011-2012 to 99.22 percent in 2017-2018, due to the various initiatives taken by this Government. The phenomenon of drop outs has also come down considerably. Teachers are mainly responsible for this accomplishment. The credit for instilling the importance of education into students, the future hope of the Country, and making them worthy citizens by improving their prospects, goes to the teaching community. A king commands respect only in his Country but the learned person commands respect wherever he goes. So, 'Moodhurai' says, the learned person has greater fame than the King. While saying this, I am reminded of a story.

A King decided to conduct a '*swayamvaram*' (bride choosing her groom) for his daughter, the princess. The announcement was made: "Those with imperishable wealth can participate in the swayamvaram and prove their claim to the princess. She will wed the person who succeeds in this".

The news spread like a forest fire and many a prince was in the fray. A prince placed at the feet of the princess a priceless diamond; others, likewise, displayed the precious articles they had and listed the extent of land in their respective kingdoms and the wealth in their possession.

At that time, a man in ordinary robes entered the swayamvaram hall. He was first denied entry but was allowed to enter on the King's orders. The King asked him: "What priceless treasure do you have?" The youth handed over a bundle of palm leaves! The King passed it on to the princess and when she opened it, she saw all the Tirukkural couplets written on them.

"I sought a priceless treasure, you have brought the Tirukkural written on palm leaves. What do you mean," the princess asked the

youth. He replied: “Tirukkural is the repository of ideas that teach the art of living. Among all types of wealth, education is the imperishable wealth and so the Tirukkural is a priceless treasure”. The princess queried: “How does it become imperishable?”. The youth said: “You can distribute your wealth to whomsoever you like. Once you start distributing the wealth, it will begin to diminish. But the wisdom gained through education alone does not diminish with distribution”. Pleased with the reply, the princess said: “You have won the competition; may I know who you are?”. The youth replied: “I am a teacher who gives the boundless treasure of education to others” . The marriage between the teacher and the princess took place. They ruled the Country for many years. Opening schools in every town, they opened the eyes of the people to knowledge.

Fire can’t scorch learning; thieves can’t rob it. The more it is given, the more it grows; it does not diminish. Hence, Students! The education you get decides the progress and prosperity of your life. I bless you that the education you get should not only ennoble you but make you work for the ennoblement of society too.

Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma’s Government is here to meet the teaching needs of teachers and learning needs of students. Learning, rising up in life, protecting parents and earning a good name for the Country are your task; shaping you is Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Government’s work.

Vaazhga Anna Namam! Valarga Puratchi Thalaivarin Pugazh! Thodarga Puratchi Thalaivi Amma’s Golden Rule!

Today is a golden day. On this day, Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., as Chief Minister launched the Nutritious Meals Scheme with the view that no child born in Tamil Nadu should suffer from hunger as he had suffered in the days of his childhood. On this pleasant day, the auditorium and the additional classroom have been declared open. Thanking the students for their patience, I take leave of you with the happy announcement that the school uniform for standards 1 to 5 and for standards 6 to 8 will be improved on par with private schools and to the appreciation of all.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

'Amma's Government fulfills needs of people by treading the path of MGR and Amma'

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami at Edappadi, Salem District on 30.06.2018 (English Translation).

Bowing to Goddess Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma,

This wonderful function covers the inauguration of the Malliakarai and Karuppur branches of the Salem District Central Co-operative Bank, the Karuppur auxiliary Police Station and the new branch of the Edappadi Central Co-operative Society, laying the foundation for new scheme works, declaring open completed projects and distribution of Government welfare assistance.

Our respected Thiru. Sellur Raju, Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation who has given the Presidential Address in this function, Respected Sukumar, District Revenue Officer who has delivered the welcome address, Thiru. Panneerselvam MP who has graced this function, Thiru. Elangovan, President of the State Co-operative Bank, Respected Semmalai, former Minister, MLA, Members of the Legislative Assembly Thiru. Venkatachalam (Salem West constituency), Thiru. Sakthivel (Salem South), Tmt. Manonmani (Veerapandi), Thiru. Raja (Sankagiri), Thiru. Vetrivel (Omalur), Respected Chinnathambi (Athur) and Respected Maruthamuthu (Gangavalli), Respected Madesh and K.K.Mani, former Union Presidents, Thiru. Kathiresan former Municipal Chairman, Respected Ramu, former Deputy Municipal Chairman, Thiru.Rajendran, former member of the District Panchayat Committee, Thiru. Mareechan, former Member of the District Panchayat Committee (Edappadi), Commissioner of our City, Superintendent of Police and officials, Elders, Ladies, Party Executives, Press and Media friends, Respected Rajendra Prasad, Joint Registrar who is to propose a vote of thanks – at the outset, I convey my gratitude to all of you.

Creating the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and getting the unanimous support of the people, Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. assumed office as Chief Minister for the first time on this day in 1977 – 30.06.1977. He ruled wonderfully for the next 11 years; gave schemes bountifully to the people; the basic needs of rural people were fulfilled totally in his regime. After his demise, Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, continued the works left behind by Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and gave a stable rule to the people of Tamil Nadu for 15 years. Many schemes were designed during Hon'ble Amma's rule. I wish to point out that a majority of the schemes, operating in Tamil Nadu today, were implemented in Amma's rule. This Movement was created by two great leaders. I wish to state that I am proud to meet you all, on the day when Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. took over the reins of the administration as Chief Minister.

Through this excellent function, our Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation gave an account of the crop loan being distributed by the Department of Co-operation. He pinpointed the extent to which we helped the farmers during the drought period. When the crops withered in the

drought, Amma's Government got the farmers Rs.3,200 crore through crop insurance, the highest in the country's history.

For safe storing of farmers' produce, storage facilities have been created. We have created the facility for farmers to keep their produce in Co-operative godowns when the market is not favourable and sell the commodities when the market is up-swing. During Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's period, godowns were constructed in all constituencies. Loans, at low interest rates, can be raised against the commodities stored. Amma implemented such a scheme as farmers' service is the best than can be rendered to society. No other regime has brought about such a scheme.

Nearly 65 percent of the population consists of farmers; there are agricultural labourers also. Their interest also is taken care of by the Government. Agricultural implements are given free to farmers; we are giving solar energy motors and drip irrigation implements. We have opened plenty of veterinary hospitals to treat cattle reared by farmers; new doctors have been appointed; new godowns to store veterinary drugs have been opened. Amma's Government has met all the needs of farmers.

Only Amma's Government has permitted free excavation of sediments by farmers from lakes and tanks in their areas for application to their lands as natural fertilizer. No other regime has permitted this. In the past, persons carrying even a load of sediment were apprehended. Today, such a situation does not prevail. After getting permission sand can be removed for construction of houses. This has also been done in Amma's rule. In this way, we identify the needs of the people and fulfill them. Amma's Government is solving the problems of the people, brought to it through officials, MPs, MLAs and Ministers, after examining them. On this day also, motor bikes were given to 90 handicapped persons. Such a mass distribution of bikes was to help such ordinary poor and marginalized people to commute safely.

Likewise, house site pattas are given; for those who do not have free house sites, new sites are provided; green houses are constructed and given. Besides, Amma's Government will allot funds and construct 45,000 houses in the current year to replace the damaged ones, constructed for the Scheduled Caste people, many years ago in Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R's rule; new concrete ceiling will be provided for houses with leaking roofs. If the depressed and oppressed class of people are affected in rural areas, their needs also will be fulfilled once they are brought to the notice of Amma's Government.

Many issues are raised these days. The green field corridor is raised as a big issue. I requested Amma for the laying of a by-pass road in Edappadi. That scheme has been completed today. Accidents have come down and travel is safe as heavy vehicles are diverted to the by-pass road. Half of Edappadi Town will disappear if roads are to be widened, houses will disappear if 15 metres of land on either side of road is acquired. It is a big scheme, linking different roads – from R.S.Puram to Nedunkulam road, from Nedunkulam road to

Koolampatti road, from Koolampatti road to Jalakandapuram road, from Jalakandapuram road to Konganapuram road and from Konganapuram road to Sankagiri road. A very good road has been laid as Edappadi people willingly gave their lands and I have declared open that road today.

Infrastructure is very important for the growth of a Country; for the establishment of new industries, good roads are necessary.

Today lakhs and lakhs of youth study. Only in Tamil Nadu, the number of students taking to higher education has increased. The DMK was ruling in Tamil Nadu and was a partner in the Central Government coalition Government. They are good at trumpeting dialogues but they don't have any policy. For them, power and position is important. First they decried the BJP as bad. I should not speak about that from this platform but some explanations will be fitting on this occasion. First they said "No". After coming out of the coalition, they stuck up (with them) and sailed along for 5 years. Likewise, they found a place in the Congress (coalition). "What did you bring (to the State) when you wielded power at the Centre for 14 years? Did you bring any scheme to Tamil Nadu? Barring a few, no new scheme was implemented in the State. When Thiru. Vajpayee was Prime Minister, he brought a scheme for the upgradation of roads. The Minister for Surface Transport in that Government was Thiru. T.R.Balu of the DMK. They acquired 3,023 hectares of land then. Now, if we acquire land for laying roads, they say, people are affected.

Good compensation is given to land owners under the new Land Acquisition Act, who offer land for the laying of roads. We offer to a coconut tree nearly Rs.35,000 to Rs.40,000. When I leased out trees in my grove, the offer was just Rs.900 per tree per year. But we offer nearly Rs.35,000. Calculated even at 6 percent rate of interest, a tree fetches Rs.2,000. Without exerting himself in any way, the tree owner gets Rs.2,000 from the Government. No one sustains any loss. Based on the genus of the tree – mango, gooseberry, palm etc. – compensation is fixed and given. Even for cattle sheds (acquired), compensation is given. If it is a house, suitable compensation is given. Old methods of calculation (for giving compensation) have been discarded. If it is a marble floored house, a flat rate of Rs.300 to Rs.400 per sq. ft. is given. If land is acquired from small farmers owning half / one acre of land at the place where the proposed road is to pass through, Government will provide an alternative site and build a green house for

them. We provide all facilities to them like road and water. In no way farmers will be affected.

Some politicians and organizations deliberately plan and utter lies to cheat the people. How can a nearby mountain be removed? All blatant lies to cheat the people. They do this, because they are unable to meet us politically. None is able to do anything against us. Politically, they are unable to oppose us. Instead, they oppose the scheme we implement. This scheme will benefit people in the future.

Today 'Dinakaran' newspaper has carried a news item that 16,214 persons die in road accidents and nearly 64,000 accidents take place every year. If so many people die, is it wrong to save them? To avert accidents, roads with modern technology should be laid. The Centre is giving such roads to Tamil Nadu. Not merely to Salem, Amma's Government has taken steps to set up accident-free roads throughout Tamil Nadu by widening and upgrading District roads and State Highways. The Central Government provides the needed funds. The Central Government has informed us that they will make available to Tamil Nadu an unprecedented Rs.75,000 crore .

We have built so many bridges – in Salem District alone, there will be no need, hereafter, to wait at a railway level-crossing. A detailed project report has been prepared and administrative sanction has been accorded for constructing a road bridge at the Omalur Taluk railway level crossing No.7, Salem at a cost of Rs.18 crore; a detailed project report has been prepared and administrative sanction obtained for a railway over-bridge at level crossing No.10 at Omalur, Omalur Taluk; evaluation work has been started for a bridge at railway level-crossing No.15 near Omalur Taluk at a cost of Rs.19.6 crore; evaluation work has started for constructing an over-bridge at railway level crossing No.18 in Karipatti and Kuttapatti in Melur Taluk at a cost of Rs.24.87 crore; evaluation work has started for constructing an over bridge at railway level crossing No.21 in Mettur Taluk at a cost of Rs.7.6 crore. So, railway over bridges will be constructed at all railway level crossings here. Likewise, construction of bridge is about to be completed at Lee Bazar, Sevvaipettai in Salem Town. Construction of a railway bridge has started at Mulluvadi Gate, Salem; one another is being constructed; land acquisition is in progress for construction of an over-bridge at Vazhapadi railway level crossing gate.

In the field of education, primary schools have been upgraded as middle schools,

49 middle schools as high schools and high schools as higher secondary schools.

Free house site pattas have been distributed to 82,433 persons at a cost of Rs.225.93 crore. Loan assistance to an extent of Rs.2,045 crore has been given to 86,437 women in women self help groups for self employment. Different kinds of loans to the tune of Rs.12,776.31 crore have been disbursed to 37,32,626 persons through the Co-operative Department. We have done all these things; we will do much more.

The DMK and the Opposition parties are levelling charges against this regime deliberately and in a planned way. Politically, they are unable to fight us. We are implementing excellent schemes –those brought about by *Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar* M.G.R. and *Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma*. I wish to point out that Amma's Government is realizing the visions of Amma.

Nearly 3,34,000 working women have registered themselves under the Amma Two Wheeler Scheme to get the vehicles with a subsidy of Rs.25,000. I am happy to state that all of them will be provided with the vehicles in a gradual manner.

A hospital has been constructed at Edappadi at a cost of Rs.4 crore; a Primary Health Centre has been set up at Koneripatti and at Nangavalli Union; a veterinary dispensary has been constructed; I myself have declared open a Primary Health Centre at Samudram; it is Amma's Government which has constructed Primary Health Centres so that the poor and marginalized people can get treatment in their own areas. I wish to point out that Amma's Government is taking steps to construct marriage halls in different places.

Amma's Government is your Government; it is the poor people's Government. Our aim is to solve their problems. Amma's Government is fulfilling that ideal. For meeting the drinking water needs of Edappadi, Amma allotted needed funds, laid the foundation and inaugurated the scheme. Today, protected Cauvery water is available to Edappadi Town people without any interruption.

Likewise, a combined water supply scheme was designed for the Panchayat Unions of Edappadi, Konganapuram and Magudanchavadi; Amma laid the foundation and inaugurated the scheme; we have fulfilled their drinking water needs. Amma announced a scheme for providing protected Cauvery water to people in Mecheri and Nangavalli Unions on a permanent basis. Amma's Government is implementing it. In another 3 or 4 months, the work will be completed and water will be supplied.

For nearly 48 years, the Cauvery issue remained un-resolved; Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma waged a battle through courts; fighting as she did, our Government has got a good verdict from the Supreme Court today and the Cauvery Management Authority has been set up. This is not an ordinary matter; it is a historic achievement. Amma's Government has recorded such a historic achievement. Our rights have been acknowledged. The first meeting of the Cauvery Management Authority is scheduled to take place on July 2. On an issue that defied solution despite farmers' agitation for many years, we succeeded on the basis of a case filed by Amma in the Supreme Court and have brought about a situation of implementing the verdict. A big issue has been solved today. Amma's Government took various initiatives for the constitution of the Cauvery Management Authority and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee for getting our share of water in the Cauvery river, found a solution through court battles and that has been implemented today. Amma's Government has fulfilled a long-standing demand of farmers. Through this, people in 28 Districts will get Cauvery water on a permanent footing; irrigation is ensured to lakhs of agricultural lands.

Works are afoot, not merely in this constituency but in all the 234 constituencies. I got elected to the Legislative Assembly from Edappadi constituency, became Highways Minister with the blessings of Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and took over the additional portfolio of Public Works in 2016. After the demise of Amma, they have given the Chief Minister post also to our constituency. People have given a recognition to the extent that the name Edappadi evokes a query immediately, "Chief Minister's constituency?". Reminding myself that this name and fame is given by you, I take leave, thanking you for the opportunity given to me.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Foundation laid for four-lane Madurai flyover

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in Madurai on 15.07.2018 *(English Translation)*.

Bowing to Goddess Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma,

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O.Panneerselvam who is presiding over this function for the construction of a new flyover, Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation Respected Thiru. Sellur Raju who is gracing this function, Hon'ble Minister for Forests Thiru. Dindigul Sreenivasan, Hon'ble Minister for Khadi and Village Industries Board Thiru.G.Baskaran, MPs and MLAs – at the outset I offer my grateful respects to all of you.

The foundation for a four-lane traffic flyover, at a cost of Rs.54.07 crore at Kalavasal junction in Madurai, has been laid today. The flyover will greatly reduce traffic congestion and the waiting time for vehicles at the junction. Along with this work, the nearby Arasaradi junction will also be developed. To expedite works on the proposed flyover at the highly congested Goripalayam road junction, officials have been instructed to review the scheme so that it can be implemented with minimum land acquisition after inspecting the traffic-intensive route. An announcement was made in the Legislative Assembly that a service road would be laid at a cost of Rs.3 crore to reach the Choolamangalam road under the Sellur railway overbridge and reduce accidents in the approach road to the overbridge. Works are to start shortly. Announcements were made in the Assembly for laying a new four-lane link road between Madurai M.G.R. Bus stand and Koodal Nagar Radio Station at a cost of Rs.50 crore and for the integration of the Highway Department roads with Madurai Municipal Corporation roads.

Administrative sanction has been given for construction of a flyover at a cost of

Rs.56 crore at the junction of Madurai Thondi road and Madurai ring road near Pandi Kovil. Works will commence soon. I am also happy to inform that administrative sanction has been accorded for laying a road at a cost of Rs.16.35 crore from Kurivikaran salai on the north bank of Vaigai river to Anna Nagar bridge. This work also will commence shortly.

So, Amma's Government has fulfilled the long-felt needs of the people of Madurai city. I am also happy to state that Amma's Government will set up treatment plants in different places and create conditions for letting only the treated drainage water into the Vaigai river.

Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing many other schemes. I am proud to say that Tamil Nadu is one state where all the Departments are in the path of development. I take leave of you, conveying my heart-felt gratitude to District Ministers who have arranged this excellent function at short notice, Hon'ble Thiru. Sellur Raju and Hon'ble Thiru. Udayakumar, Thiru. Rajan Chellappa, MPs, MLAs, the District Collector, Government Officers and Officers of the Highways Department.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Appointment orders to legal heirs

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** at the Secretariat, on 02.07.2018, handed over appointment orders to legal heirs of 3 drivers of Public Department, who died during service.

Drivers of the Public Department, Thiru. M.Sureshbabu, Thiru. S.Ravichandran and Thiru. V.Sounderarajan, died during service. On compassionate grounds, the legal heirs of these drivers were given appointments for the posts of office assistants and sanitary worker by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami.

While promoting awareness about M-sand, tender process for import of sand is on

Explanation of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 07.06.2018 on M-sand *(English Translation)*.

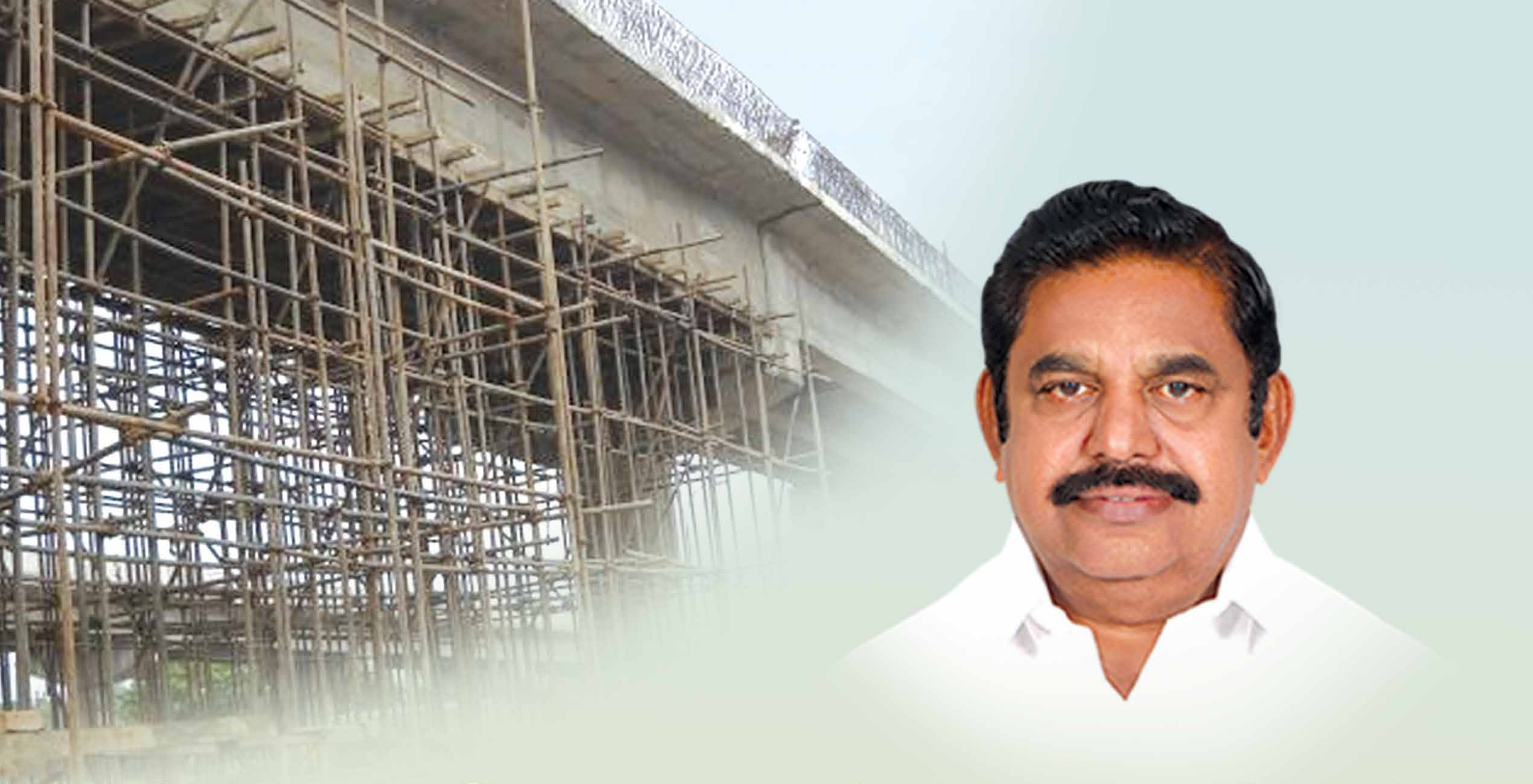
Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Hon'ble member raised a question over M-sand. Government's intention is to promote use of M-sand gradually by banning, over a period of three years, extraction of river sand and the sand in Odais, for construction purposes. Use of river sand in construction industry was there in your rule and in Hon'ble Amma's rule. It is so because sand is an important and essential commodity. It is a must for the construction industry. As for the general public, they are not in a position to use M-sand immediately. In the past, M-sand was used to an extent of 10 percent only. As awareness has been created, now 40 percent of the people have started using M-sand. Government will take all steps to bring about awareness about M-sand so that it is used 100 percent by the population.

You (Opposition) have asked how many licences have been issued for production of M-sand. The Public Works Department has examined and issued grade certificate to 24 manufacturers of M-sand in the State.

The Government will be liberal in issuing licences to all those establishing factories for the production of M-sand. That is, the Government is prepared to issue the licence to those whose applications conform to Government rules. Our MLA mentioned even this morning. How many quarries were there in the earlier DMK rule? Hence, this is an essential commodity to people. As sand is very, very important for construction work, it cannot be stopped immediately.

Sand is needed for various construction works of the Government, whether it be the PWD or the Highways Department. Many buildings are coming up in the state. The Green Houses for the poor, for instance. Sand is very, very important. Considering all these things, sand is removed from rivers and odais, subject to Government rules, and distributed to people. Besides, sand is imported from abroad and Government is making arrangements for its sale to people. I wish to inform the member through you (Hon'ble Speaker) that import of sand has already been announced, tenders have been floated for the import of sand from abroad and that the quotations received in response, are under examination.



Bridges, flyover projects completed overtaking challenges in the way

Clarifications of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 11.06.2018 to the questions raised by DMK Member Thiru. I. Periyasamy *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

1. On construction of new bridges:

The construction of Porur bridge was stalled for several years as you (DMK) had not executed the preliminary works. That was what I pointed out. To start a work, first you should plan it. Without designing a plan for it, if you just announce the construction of a bridge and start the work, it will end up as an incomplete project. Work on the Vyasarpadi flyover had to be stopped in the middle because you had not gone about the work in the proper way. As you had not taken into account the removal of sewage, many problems arose and we had to negotiate and complete the project. Likewise, the Mohanur-Vangal bridge. For several years, the project went into hibernation. We completed the project. The projects Thirumangalam-Mogappair Junction bridge, Moolakadai flyover and Thiru.Vi.Ka. bridge were all left in midway and we completed those works.

The member asked about the new bridge. Work on the construction of the Rs.108 crore bridge at the Velachery Junction at a cost of Rs.108 crore has been completed; so too on the Rs.85 crore Pallavaram bridge. Work is afoot on the Rs.95 crore flyover at the Kaaliamman

Kovil Junction in Koyambedu area, on the Rs.146 crore Medavakkam flyover, on the Rs.58 crore Keezhkattalai flyover and on the Rs.53crore bridge across Buckingham canal on the Tiruvottiyur-Ponneri-Panchetti road. Besides these, many bridges across rivers are under construction; a flyover is being constructed in a short duration near the Tiruchi railway junction. Many such bridges are under construction in Amma's rule. During Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's rule, whether it be construction of bridge or laying of road, project work commenced in time and got completed at the time specified for it. This is a planned work. I wish to inform the member through you (Hon'ble Speaker) that such planned work helped the completion of bridge and road projects in a short duration.

2. On Greenfield corridor, flyover from Taramani to Siruseri and widening Perungalathur-Vandalur road as 8-lane traffic road.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

A senior member is recording a wrong information about laying of a road. I have all details with me on how many roads his (DMK party's) Member of Parliament laid as the Central Minister for Road Transport. As I did not want to intervene, I was keeping quiet. A road is laid as per the needs of that locality. That cannot be found fault with. Roads will be widened in all areas gradually. What is your difficulty in laying a greenfield corridor from Chennai to Salem? Is it a wrong thing to lay that road? We have fought with the Centre to get that road. You had missed that opportunity when you were the Minister for Road Transport. We have implemented that scheme. We are not a part of the ruling coalition at the Centre. You were. At that time, you did not undertake widening of roads in Tamil Nadu.

I can clearly say how many roads are there, as of now. We are in the opposition (vis-à-vis the central ruling coalition). We are not the ruling party at the Centre. Your rule prevailed both in the State and at the Centre. Why did not you implement it? Why are you obstructing its implementation now? Why are you slighting it? When you were laying roads, were you doing so, for private individuals. Let me hear from you. Is it not for the public that you are announcing the sanctioning of roads. So, it is the people in the cities and towns lying in between Chennai and Salem who are going to use that road. I wish to bring to the attention of the Hon'ble Member that this road is not laid for any one's private use.

Siruseri was mentioned here. The second phase of metro rail project is to pass through that place. As these two projects have to be co-ordinated for starting the work, there is a delay. That work will commence in unison with the rail project.

He (Thiru. Periyasamy) has said that the road has not been widened from Vandalur. That road comes under Central Government and is maintained by the National Highways Authority of India. It is not maintained by the

State Government. We are placing our demands to the Centre. Why no attention was paid to it when you (DMK) were in power at the Centre and Respected Thiru.T.R.Balu was the Central Minister for Road Transport. Why did not you pay attention to such a prime road? However, taking into account the traffic congestion in that locality, Hon'ble Amma's Government has urged the Central Government to widen that road. The Union Government has promised to implement it. A detailed project report is being prepared through the National Highway Authority for setting up an elevated corridor from Tambaram to Chengalpattu.

There was a mention about elevated corridor. The State Government does not have so much funds. We have to get it from the Centre or we should take efforts to get necessary funds from the World Bank. We have to get permission from the Centre for that. So, on that basis too, we have placed a request to the Centre and it is being examined.

Also, I wish to inform the Hon'ble Member that the Central Minister for Road Transport Hon'ble Nitin Gadkari has agreed to set up an elevated corridor from Taramani to Chengalpattu when a request for that was made to him while he was in Chennai.

Village roads too were referred to. I wish to tell the Hon'ble Member that Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., as Chief Minister, brought in a self-sufficiency scheme and provided good roads in Villages with the intention that Villages should develop and that Village roads should be in good condition.

3. On Tender rules

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

It is a practice all-over India to seek pre-qualification certificate when a tender is floated. For taking up a work, you have to submit the requisite certificate to establish your credentials. Not merely Tamil Nadu, but other States also adopt this procedure. When a tender is floated at the National level, the work will be allotted only after the submission of this pre-qualification certificate. When tenders are announced for Rs.100 crore and Rs.200 crore, you can find a place for consideration only when the appropriate certificate is produced.

Tender rules can be fulfilled only when appropriate tools are available with the tenderer for executing the work. This procedure is followed for the proper execution of the work after the tender is given to a person. Details of the transport facility and the types of vehicles available with the person bidding the tender are sought. The laying of the road will be strong and in a proper manner if these conditions are fulfilled.

Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had mentioned all these things. We adopted this procedure after deliberating on the steps to be taken for laying an excellent road, at a consultative meeting and after getting her advice. As a result of adoption of this procedure, roads laid in 2011-2012 are still

strong; not even a patch work has been done to them. Quality machines were used for laying the roads. Hence, even after the expiry of their life time of 5 years, they remain without even a patch work. Members of the Legislature can inspect whether the roads laid by Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government are qualitatively good. There is no second view on this. I wish to inform the Hon'ble Member through You (Hon'ble Speaker) that all these procedures are followed for setting up strong, long-standing, quality roads.

4. On Chennai-Bengaluru Express way

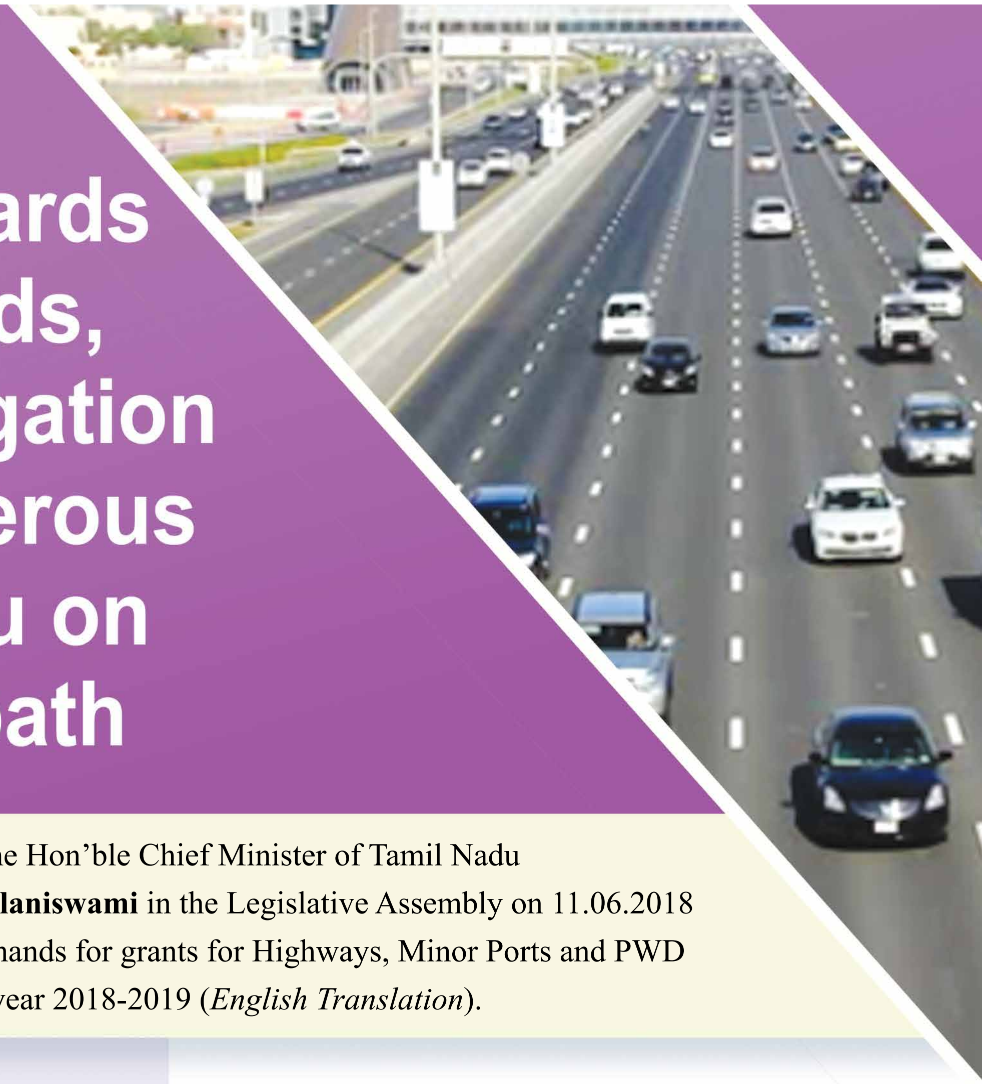
Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Land acquisition for the Chennai-Bengaluru Express Way is going on. The Central Government has announced an allotment of Rs.20,000 crore for this. No project can be implemented immediately after its announcement. In the past, you (DMK) too, announced the construction of many bridges. In Chennai too, you announced the Porur bridge, laid the foundation and celebrated the event. But you have not acquired the land for the bridge. Due to this default, the bridge work could not be completed in time. There was heavy traffic congestion there. Traders filed many suits in court. It was only Hon'ble Amma's Government that completed the project after getting judgments on those cases.

When Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was Chief Minister, preliminary works had to be completed first, whether it be laying of roads or construction of bridges. Preliminary works include acquisition of land needed for the project and shifting of telecommunication equipment, electricity transmission lines, water mains and sewerage pipes if they are located in the project area or crossed. Then only the project can be completed in time. Now, if a new road is to be laid, construction work can be started only after completing the preliminary work of acquisition of land.

We tried to get credit facility from JICA for laying a peripheral road also. The Japanese agency JICA insisted on the acquisition of land first. It advised: the project comes to a halt midway if you get loan without first acquiring the land needed for the project; to avert such a turn of events, first acquire the land, whatever be the project, and then start the work.

So, it is not possible to immediately implement a project after it is announced as the member says. A time frame is charted for the implementation of a project. To attain a particular level of growth in Tamil Nadu before the year 2023 – Vision 2023 – targets are fixed for improving the road infrastructure and they have to be completed within that time frame. When those targets are realized, Tamil Nadu will be the best State in India. When the State becomes the best in infrastructure, new industries will come up. Through those industries job opportunities will improve and the economy will develop. With this visionary outlook, that project was announced. This, I wish to inform the Member through you (Hon'ble Speaker).



Steps towards great roads, efficient irrigation for a prosperous Tamil Nadu on Amma's path

Reply of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 11.06.2018 to the debate on the demands for grants for Highways, Minor Ports and PWD for the year 2018-2019 (*English Translation*).

Paying obeisance to Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma,

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Many noble things are referred to in Tamil by words in three letters. Tamil, Anna, M.G.R., friendship (*Natpu*), Courage (*Thunivu*), Bravery (*Veeram*) and personality (*Aalumai*) are a few words to cite as examples. Our great and unique leader who protected and uplifted our motherland, Tamil Nadu by straining herself utmost – Amma – is also a word of three letters.

Bowing to our Idaya Deivam Amma, who had a visionary outlook and courageous execution of deeds and who considered the party and governance as her two eyes, I start my reply to the debate.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

We have studied from our school days that for interaction among people, road transport is particularly essential for a Country's economic growth, society's discipline, prevalence of peace and conducive living. The first lesson we learned about India's emperor Ashoka is that he laid roads and planted trees.

A Country's bridges and roads are like the nerves and 'pulse' of the bodies. As 'pulse rate' reveal the health of the body, a country's growth can be evaluated from its roads. As the world cannot be thought of without water, growth cannot be thought of without roads. Roads, bridges and seaports play an important role for industry, technology, agriculture and the like which are the elements of the

economy. For safe, speedy and low-cost travel of passengers and transport of goods, upgraded road infrastructure facilities are essential. To achieve this, the Highways Department was created in 1946 Exclusively.

Whenever new roads and bridges are set up or existing roads repaired, new job opportunities and new business markets get created. Road and bridge works got an impetus during Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s rule. These works got a further fillip in the days of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. This Government that travels in the path of these two great and illustrious leaders, continues the work left behind by them, without any lapse.

This Government will function as the roads and bridges to unite all people and their hearts. It is firm on doing everything needed for Tamil Nadu's long journey towards development. I submit to this House some of the achievements of this Government that follows the path shown by Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Tamil Nadu State has a total Road Network of 63,650 k.m. length; of this, length of National Highways Network is 5,324 k.m.; of these National Highways Network, 2,039 k.m. of roads are maintained by the National Highways (NH) unit of the State Government and the remaining 3,285 k.m. of roads by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Under the maintenance of the Highways Department are 11,830 k.m. of State highways, 11,638 k.m. of major District roads and 34,858 k.m. of other District roads.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Two years' achievements.

This Government is a continuation of the good governance of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma between the years 2011-2016 and is serving the people with the blessings of Hon'ble Amma. In the last 2 years, it has completed widening and upgradation of 12,874 k.m. long roads at a cost of Rs.12,246 crore. Also, maintenance and renovation works at a cost of Rs.2,021 crore has been spent on 7,202 k.m. long roads. Bridges and culverts numbering 650 have been constructed and declared open and thus the Highways Department has done an excellent work in making travel pleasant.

Important road bridge works in Chennai Metro which got delayed in the periods of DMK's rule were spurred into action and completed speedily. Road bridges in many places were constructed and brought to people's use like the very important railway over bridge in Vyasarpadi area (Rs.80.68 crore) that connects North and South Chennai, the road bridge at the Porur road junction, one at the Tirumangalam road junction and the road bridge at the Mattumandhai railway level crossing.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme (CRIDP)

The CRIDP scheme was introduced by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in the year 2005-2006. It aims at developing the road infrastructure facilities of the State in a regular way every year. Through this scheme,

Augumentation of the Road capacity by widening and strengthening of roads is taken up. The life period of the roads extends through strengthening and upgradation works.

In the last 2 years, strengthening and widening works were taken up in a stretch of 9,072 k.m. of the 58,326 k.m. long roads, maintained by the Highways Department. Some important bridge works and by-pass road works were also taken up under this scheme. They are:

• A flyover was constructed at a cost of Rs.26.77 crore at the Junction of Thiruvakavundanur in Salem City and it is in use;

• A tender bid to construct a flyover at the Kalavasal Junction in Madurai City at a cost of Rs.54 crore is under examination;

• Bridge works on Vandalur-Mambakkam-Kelambakkam road and on the Grand Southern Trunk Road at the point K.m. 32/4, at a cost of Rs.60 crore are in progress.

• Work is proceeding in the construction of 1,685 k.m. long four lane traffic flyover from Aathu Paalam to Oppanakara Veedhi via Ukkadam in Coimbatore City at a cost of Rs.121.82 crore.

• Sanction has been accorded for widening and developing 7 important link roads including the Pallavaram-Thoraipakkam road in Chennai suburb and Chennai-Chitoor-Bengaluru road at a cost of Rs.216 crore and work is proceeding.

• Of the subways in Chennai City, repairing of pedestrian subways at Anna flyover and Thousand Lights at a cost of Rs.3.60 crore is going on.

Road and bridge works taken up by the Highways Department are subjected to quality control tests by a separate Quality Control and Research organization for ensuring their quality.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

By-pass roads

By-pass roads are designed to reduce the increasing traffic congestion in cities and to protect the environment of Villages. They not only reduce traffic congestion but make travel pleasant, expenditure on vehicle and travel time is reduced and avert traffic accidents to a large extent.

The Highways Department has completed laying of by-pass roads to 32 cities and they have been thrown open to traffic; construction work is apace for 10 cities; land is being acquired for laying by-pass roads to 38 cities; and detailed project reports are under preparation for 15 cities. One such road for a City is under Government's consideration.

Railway works

Our State is a model in setting up railway bridges at level crossings for speedy and accident free travel.

There are 353 manned railway level crossings on State roads. Of these railway over/under bridge has to be set up in 128 level crossings as the train vehicle density has crossed one lakh mark. Work on 97 of these are in different stages of progress. In the remaining 31 level crossings, construction of over/under bridge will be taken up in stages as per priority requirements. These works are taken up under Railway Works on a 50-50 fund sharing basis.

In the past, construction of a railway bridge took 5 to 6 years. I am happy to say that the duration of construction of railway bridge has come down to 4 years now as the works are carried out in co-ordination with the railways.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir,

Construction of roads/bridges with NABARD assistance

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development provides credit assistance for construction of new bridges/re-construction and for the development of major District roads and other roads. In that way, 258 bridges and 1,523 k.m. long 492 roads were taken up for execution in 2017-2018 financial year and most of the works have been completed.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir,

Chennai Metropolitan Development Project and new works in the extended Chennai Municipal Corporation areas

Chennai is one of the worst traffic congested City in the Country. Vehicle density is calculated by a ratio of the total length of the roads and the total number of vehicles passing on the roads. Chennai Metro has a vehicle population of 54 lakh and it occupies the first place in vehicle density followed by Pune and Hyderabad in that order. Hence, the Highways Department is taking several steps to reduce the mounting traffic congestion in Chennai and its extended areas. Many schemes like widening of roads, construction of multi-tier bridge and setting up for FOB's with escalators for pedestrians to cross roads are identified and executed earnestly by the Highways Department on priority basis.

The Highways Department maintains 251 k.m. long roads in the extended areas of Chennai Municipal Corporation, lying in the Districts of Chennai, Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram. Development of these roads are taken up in stages from the year 2014-2015.

Chennai Outer Ring Road – Phase – I and II

The second phase is the continuation of CORR Phase-I and a 30.50 k.m. long six lane traffic road from Nemilichery (NH 205) to Minjur and is execute at a cost of Rs.1,075 crore on design-build-finance-operate-transfer (DBFOT) basis with half yearly payment of dividend. Ninety seven percent of the second phase of the Chennai Outer Ring road has been completed. Government is taking steps to get court verdicts quickly in respect of areas under litigation and complete the project.

Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project–II was formed to upgrade roads in the State with high level traffic intensity. The project is to be executed with world bank assistance and under the EPC contract (engineering, procurement and construction). Widening of 427 k.m. stretches of roads of two-line width with paved shoulders was to be executed at a cost of Rs.1,705 crore. The works were divided into 10 package phases and that on 2 of the packages have been completed. The remaining be completed in the current financial year itself.

An agreement has been entered into for executing road works on Public-Private Participation mode (PPP) for 116 k.m. long Oddanchatram-Dharapuram road and Tiruneveli-Tenkasi road. Tenders are shortly to be floated for Gobichettipalayam-Erode road works.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir,

Performance based maintenance contract (PBMC)

PBMC is a scheme to maintain the State Highways in Districts and major District roads through performance based maintenance contract, improve road capacity and ensure continuous road maintenance. This contract provides for taking up initial rectification, periodical renewal, minor improvement works, ordinary maintenance and emergency road repair works through single contractor only.

This scheme was first initiated in Pollachi Division in 2013-2014 on 5 year contract basis. Later, it was extended to Krishnagiri, Ramanathapuram and Tiruvallur divisions in 2015-2016 and to Virudhunagar division in 2017-2018. State Highways to a length of 1,564 k.m. and Major District roads to a length of 1,382 k.m. in these divisions are maintained under this scheme.

National Highways

Continuous talks were held with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORT&H) for the development of National Highways and for creation of new highways in Tamil Nadu and the State's needs were pressed. This helped to get more funds in the financial years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. I am happy to state that many issues connected with road works were resolved in the 3 consultative meetings held in Chennai with the Central Government Minister for Road Transport & Highways.

Under the 2017-2018 year plan, the Central Minister for Road Transport and Highways has given approval for 64 road works covering a length of 510.07 k.m. and costing Rs.1,060 crore. Also, 36 road works and 13 bridge works covering a length of 322.30 k.m. and costing Rs.1,418.66 crore were taken up as pending works. Of these, 19 road works running to length of 250.83 k.m. and 6 bridge works have been completed at a cost of Rs.664.46 crore in 2017-2018.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir,

Chennai-Kanniyakumari Industrial Corridor scheme

The Highways Department is implementing many road infrastructure projects with State fund, Central sponsor and externally added Schemes for the development of State economy and industries. Of the 5 industrial corridors announced by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, the East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC) is considered to be one. The Government of India has proposed to develop the East Coast Economic Corridor with loan assistance from the Asian Development Bank.

Chennai-Kanniyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC), connecting 23 Districts (13 coastal and 10 interior Districts) and National Highways NH-7, NH-45 and SH-49 has been planned.

In the CKIC influence zone for development, roads running to a length of 8,047 k.m. have been identified for development in six phases under the road infrastructure development scheme. This comprises 4,318 k.m. long National Highways and 3,729 k.m. long State Highways.

The Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project–II has prepared detailed project reports for 15 road

works. The works will be implemented at an estimate cost of Rs.6,448 crore. The Asian Development Bank provides a credit assistance of Rs.3,288 crore; and the remaining would be borne by the State Government.

Public Works Department

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir,

That wonderful Sakthi (power) Amma, made this soil realize that Amma meant victory, achievement, history and an epoch; a Maha Sakthi, beyond the realm of human power, the Life Energy of one-and-a-half crore partymen, the pulsating Power of eight crore Tamils, who left us to reach the abode of Heavens –- to the Feet of that Power, I bow once again.

Public Works Department is one of the oldest Departments of Government. Its Building section not only takes up construction works with great dedication but also creates immovable assets to Government. It is constructing safe buildings with latest scientific inventions and modern technology and as per the specifications stipulated by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

This section executes construction related works including planning, designing, construction and maintenance for the different Departments of the Government as per their needs.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir,

Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. raised the question: "Millions have lived and millions have passed away – who remains in the hearts of people?" and himself answered: "Great Heroes and Defenders of Honour alone are remembered in history". Yes; in tune with this definition, our Amma changed her life into that of a heroic woman. This can be understood by the visit of lakh and lakh of people, cutting across party lines, to her memorial on the sea shore of Bay of Bengal. Construction work has started, following the sanctioning of Rs.50 crore for a grand memorial to Hon'ble Amma who dedicated herself totally to public life and served the people. The PWD is keen to execute this work in an excellent manner.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir,

The Building section of PWD is constructing buildings excellently to all the 32 Departments of the Government as per their needs. Besides construction of Government office buildings and exclusive halls for office use, the Building section, I wish to record in this House, constructs quarters for judges and officials in an excellent way and in time.

PWD –IRRIGATION

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir,

Water is Nature's gift to world. Without it, there is no world. Rain is the source for water. Without rain, there is no river, spring or ground water. It is the sky that gives rain. That is why Saint Valluvar described rain as the speciality of the Sky. Saint Valluvar has also described how important rain water is for agriculture and the need to use the water got by rain in a regulated way for irrigation. Today, the greatest threat to the world is scarcity of water.

Eighteen percent of the world's population lives in our country. But we get only 4 percent of water out of the total world collection.

Hence, it is the prime duty of a Government to use the water thriftily and make it available for agriculture and for the daily use of people. On the basis of this realization, the irrigation policy of this Government that functions is framed with the blessings of Hon'ble Amma.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir,

Constitution of the Cauvery Water Management Authority and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee – the legal actions that were taken.

The efforts taken and legal battles waged by Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma to get Tamil Nadu's due share of water on the Cauvery water, were great. In these happy times when the Central Government has taken steps. As per to the final verdict of Supreme Court to set up the Cauvery Water Management Authority and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee and has published the same in its gazette, I submit at the golden feet of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the victory achieved by Tamil Nadu. I recite Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's fame and hail her with a full heart as *"Nadandhaai vaazhi Kaveri"* and offer my obeisance to her.

I have already recorded in this House many times the steps taken by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and this Government that follows her footsteps for establishing Tamil Nadu's rights in sharing Cauvery River water. Still I wish to recall the important events.

The draft scheme was argued in the Supreme Court on 16.02.2018 and the Court directed that the corrected draft scheme should be filed by the Central Government on 17.05.2018. Accordingly, the corrected scheme that provided for Cauvery Water Management Authority with New Delhi as its headquarters and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee with Bengaluru as its headquarters, was filed in the Supreme Court on 17.05.2018.

In its final verdict on 18.05.2018, the Supreme Court accepted the corrected draft and closed the case stating that the Central Government would publish this draft scheme in its gazette and that it would be implemented before the coming monsoon season.

The Central Government too constituted the CWMA & CWRC and published it in its gazette. That day of the publication of the historic judgment, a joyous day, is a total victory day for the efforts of Hon'ble Amma. I am happy to record in this House that it is a victory for the efforts she had taken to get Tamil Nadu's rights on the Cauvery water.

Mullai Periyar Dam

The water level in Mullai Periyar has been raised to 142 feet on the Supreme Court's order after a legal battle waged by Hon'ble Amma and on the recommendations of the monitoring committee.

Steps to raise the water level to 152 feet, the full capacity of the dam.

Three of the six works for strengthening the dam, as per the order of the Supreme Court, have been completed. The consent of the Central Ministry for Environment and Forest is getting delayed as the Forest Department of Kerala has not given its approval. As the Kerala Government did not co-operate, a case was

filed in the Supreme Court and it is pending. Specialist advocates of Tamil Nadu Government are taking care of the case.

Stay to Kerala Government's attempt to construct a vehicle parking structure in the water spread area of Mullai Periyar Dam

The Kerala Government planned to construct a heavy vehicle parking structure in an area that covered the water spread area of the Mullai Periyar Dam. The Tamil Nadu Government impleaded itself as a respondent in the case filed against this move in the National Green Tribunal and filed a petition. In its order of 17.02.2017, the NGT granted permission for parking of tourist vehicles at Kumili Town but ordered that no development or construction works should be undertaken there. In its order dated 15.11.2017, the NGT felt the issue could be resolved only by the Supreme Court as a case was pending in that court for a decision whether the water spread area was a leased land. Against this order of the NGT, Tamil Nadu Government filed a civil appeal in the Supreme Court. The case came up for hearing on 04.12.2017 and the Supreme Court issued an interim stay for the Kerala Government's proposal.

I am duty bound to say in this House that Amma's Government that treads the path of Hon'ble Amma continues to make all efforts for not ceding any of Tamil Nadu's rights.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Palar River Water Issue

Our neighbouring Andhra Pradesh Government had planned to construct a dam across the inter-State river Palar that passes through its region, at Ganesapuram. Amma's Government, that always protects the livelihood of farmers, immediately launched legal proceedings and filed a civil appeal in the Supreme Court on 10.02.2006 and prevented the construction of the dam till date.

Also, on coming to know the incidents of construction of check dams and raising of bunds in Palar in some places, steps were taken to prevent them and restore status quo ante. Amma's Government is also taking action that no hurdles are created for water resources and agricultural activities.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Parambikulam-Aaliyar Project

The Parambikulam-Aaliyar Project was designed by Tamil Nadu Government, with Kerala Government's consent, in its second Five Year Plan (1955-1960) for utilizing the water of 8 west flowing rivers – Anaimalaiar, Neerar, Sholayar, Parambikulam and its tributaries Peruvaripallam and Thunakadavu and the rivers flowing in the plains Aaliyar and Palar. The project benefits Pollachi, Palladam, Udumalaipet and Dharapuram Taluks in the Districts of Coimbatore and Tiruppur. Palakad and Tiruchur Districts in Kerala State also get the benefits. Talks between Tamil Nadu and Kerala Governments continue to enhance the benefits of the project and review the agreement between the two States for improving the water resources. Recently official level talks were held in the presence of the Central Water Resources Commission.

Anaimalaiyar

As per the agreement, we have the rights to divert 2.5 t.m.c. ft. of water from Anaimalaiyar to Parambikulam-Aliyar project. For this scheme, a supplementary agreement has to be signed. But the Kerala Government has been constantly saying that Idamalaiyaru scheme has not yet been completed. So, this scheme could not be implemented. Still the Tamil Nadu Government has been making its efforts.

Neeraru-Nallaru Multi Purpose Direct Link Scheme

It is a multi-purpose scheme. It envisages construction of a reservoir across Nallaru to store 7 t.m.c. ft. of water; to divert water directly from the upper Neeraru minor dam to Thirumoorthy anaicut through Nallaru by a tunnel; and to generate 265 MW of hydel power. It is a water loss prevention scheme as presently water from Neeraru dam to Thirumoorthy dam is taken in a circuitous route.

Recently, two committees of technical experts have been set up with retired engineers to get proposals for the optimum utilization of inter-State river water and to make the best use of water available in Tamil Nadu and implement the schemes quickly. On 24.05.2018, I held a meeting with these two committee members and requested them to submit their proposals to the Government expeditiously.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Diverting a portion of the surplus water of Godavari river to Cauvery

The National Water Development Agency prepared a feasibility report in 2004 for linking Maha Nadhi, Godavari, Krishna, Pennaru, Palaru, Cauvery, Vaigai and Gundaru. Hon'ble Amma's Government continues to insist for the speedy implementation of this scheme. The Agency has Stated that in the first phase, it has been planned to make available 1,600 million cubic metre (57 t.m.c.) of water at Grand Anaicut on the Cauvery after meeting the water needs of States en route.

At a meeting held under the presidency of Hon'ble Central Minister for Water Resources at Chennai on 23.11.2017, I requested for the early implementation of this scheme. The Central Minister assured that 125 t.m.c. ft. of water would be diverted to Cauvery through this scheme. I wish to inform this House that the Tamil Nadu Government continues to take all steps for the execution of the river linking project.

***Kudimaramathu* scheme**

I wish to mention in this House that Government decided to breathe life into the *kudimaramathu* scheme by retrieving the water bodies with the co-operation of the beneficiaries and started this scheme in 2016-2017 and it has been welcomed and received appreciation of all sections of the people. Through this scheme, maintenance of lakes, canals and supply channels, re-structuring of sluices and weirs and strengthening lake bunds are taken up. This scheme is implemented through agricultural associations / irrigation sabhas / ayacutdar or groups of ayacutdars. Ten percent of the estimated expenditure is obtained from the beneficiaries either in the form of labour or goods or cash as their share.

In 2016-2017, Government gave administrative sanction to execute

1,519 *kudimaramathu* works in 30 Districts at a cost of Rs.100 crore. Of this, 1,513 works have been completed. As a follow up, steps are now taken to take up 1,511 works at a cost of Rs.328.95 crore.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Distribution of sediment soil.

By amending the Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules 1959, people in villages having lakes, channels and reservoirs (barring the Districts of Chennai, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur) and in adjoining Villages, have been permitted to take clay, sediments, savudu and gravel sand, free of cost, from such of these water bodies notified in the District gazette for making articles out of mud, for household use and to meet the needs of agriculture, after obtaining prior permission from the District administration. This helps in retrieving the capacity of water bodies.

A total of 61.447 million cubic meter sediment soil has been distributed to 5,37,756 beneficiaries. Through the Water Resources Department alone 14.412 million cubic meter sediment has been distributed to 1,01,618 beneficiaries.

Athikadavu-Avinashi Scheme

The State Government gave administrative sanction to implement the Athikadavu-Avinashi scheme as an irrigation, ground water re-charging and water supply scheme in the Districts of Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Erode at a cost of Rs.1,652 crore. A water collection structure is proposed to be set up across Bhavani river, some 230 metres below the Kalingarayan anaicut. From that, water is proposed to be taken to a distance of 115.40 k.m. through pumping and gravitational force. The main purpose of this scheme is to provide irrigational facility to the dry/ground water depleted areas of Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Erode Districts. Through this, 32 PWD lakes, 42 Panchayat Union Tanks and 971 other percolation ponds are proposed to be filled up.

An additional Rs.137 crore scheme has been prepared and is under Government consideration, for generating electricity through solar panels and supplying it to the nearby TNEB Sub-station for meeting the power consumption expenditure of the Athikadavu-Avinashi scheme. This scheme is Hon'ble Amma's dream scheme. Government is keen to take all steps to implement this scheme speedily and bring it to the use of the people.

Linking of Tambraparani-Karumeniyaru-Nambiyaru rivers

To link Tambraparani river with Karumeniyaru and Nambiyaru, it is proposed to set up a flood water canal and utilize 2,765 million cubic ft. of surplus water. Through this scheme, 33,298.07 acres of land in Tirunelveli District and 23,610.73 acres in Thoothukudi District will get irrigational facility. Expecting funds under the Central Government's accelerated irrigation benefits programme, administrative sanction has been given for Rs.369 crore for this scheme which will be implemented in four stages. Works in the first two stages as also those for acquisition of land for all the stages, are in progress. Efforts are continuously put in to get Central

Government's financial assistance under the Long-term Irrigation Fund.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

State Fund Schemes - Creation of New Irrigation Infrastructures - on going schemes

Work on setting up a new reservoir at Kannankottai village, Tiruvallur District, by linking Kannankottai, Rajaneri and Thervoy Kandigai lakes at the revised estimate of Rs.380 crore in progress. Through this scheme, it is proposed to store one t.m.c. ft. of water for every two fillings for Chennai Metro's drinking water needs and ensure irrigation facility to 696 acre fields. Till now, 76 percent of the works have been completed.

The setting up of a new reservoir across Marudaiyaru near Kottarai Village in Alathur Taluk, Perambalur District at a cost of Rs.124.20 crore is in progress. By implementing this scheme, 4,194 acres will get irrigation. 65 percent of the works have been completed so far.

Works on setting up a Earth dam, Spill way and river sluices across Malattar, Bathalapalli village, Gudiyatham Taluk, Vellore District at a cost of Rs.29.55 crore are in progress. By implementing this scheme, 4,243 acres of land will be benefit.

Construction of three supply channels, two in Tirunelveli District and one in Ramanathapuram District, at a cost of Rs.21.80 crore are in progress. By implementing this scheme, 13,380 acres of land will be benefit.

Administrative sanction has been given for acquisition of lands for constructing a barrage with head sluices across Kollidam river between Adhanur and Kumaramangalam Villages in Cuddalore and Nagapattinam Districts at milestone 74/3 at a cost of Rs.31.35 crore and the acquisition work is proceeding.

Likewise, administrative sanction has been given for acquisition of lands and for detailed survey works for the scheme to divert flood waters of Ramanadhi in Ambasamudram Taluk, Tirunelveli District to the irrigation areas of Jambunadhi in the Taluks of Tenkasi and Alangulam in that District at a cost of Rs.5.40 crore. Survey works for this scheme have been completed and detailed project estimate has also been prepared. They are under Government's examination. Work on acquisition of lands is progressing.

Administrative sanction was given on 04.05.2018 for repairing at a cost of Rs.3 crore Krishnagiri dam's damaged surplus water weir no.1 in Krishnagiri District and works are on.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

New Irrigation structures with NABARD assistance

Hon'ble Amma's Government takes great interest in creating new irrigation infrastructures for making good the deficit in drinking water supply and food caused by the growing population. Many irrigation infrastructure facilities are created out of State's funds and NABARD's loans. I am happy to mention in this House, some important schemes among them.

With NABARD's loan assistance, 13 works such as construction of new anaicuts, check dams, supply channels and setting up of lakes at a cost of Rs.138.79 crore to benefit 12,856 acres in 11 Districts, have been taken up. Apart from this, 15 works like setting up a new lake, tail-end barrage, check dams and a head weir at a cost of Rs.125.76 crore to benefit 9,967 acres in 11 Districts are to be commenced shortly.

Besides creating new irrigation structures, Amma's Government continues to give importance to works of renovating existing irrigation infrastructure so as to preserve their effectiveness of functioning. Accordingly, 8 works – rejuvenation of anaicuts, lake and supply channels – costing Rs.128.01 crore and benefiting 54,325 acres of land in 7 Districts are in progress. NABARD provides loan assistance for these works.

Also six rejuvenation works in a reservoir and canals in five Districts are to be taken up shortly at a cost of Rs.78.18 crore. Execution of these works will benefit 16.89 lakh acres of land in various Districts.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement with World Bank assistance

The Dam Restoration and Development scheme is executed with financial assistance from the World Bank by three units organisation – Water Resources Department, Agriculture Engineering Department and Tamil Nadu Generation of Electricity and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO) for firming up the dams' strength, safety and operation. The 69 dams of the Water Resources Department and 38 dams of the electricity generation and distribution corporation are proposed to be restored under this scheme. The period of execution of this scheme is now extended up to June 2020. The fund sharing between the world bank and the State for the implementation of this scheme is in the ratio of 80:20. The total cost of the scheme is Rs.745.49 crore. Administrative sanction has been given to a total of 69 anaicuts. Of these, works have been completed in 60 dams (barring fixing of surveillance gadgets).

Climate change adaptation programme in Cauvery tail-end areas with Asia Development Bank's financial assistance

The climate change adaptation programme is implemented at a cost of Rs.1,560 crore with Asia Development Bank's financial assistance. The Bank's share is Rs.1,092 crore and that of the State Rs.468 crore. It works out to a ratio of 70:30. In the first phase of the scheme, administrative sanction has been given for the development, reconstruction and renovation of irrigation structures in Keezh Vennar system in the Cauvery tail end area at a cost of Rs.960.66 crore. Works are afoot.

Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project with World Bank assistance

The Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project With World Bank Assistance. Project is proposed to be implemented in 66 sub-drainage basins in 29 Districts at a cost of Rs.2,962 crore for 7 years from 2017 to benefit 5.43 lakh hectares. This Project is a continuation of the successfully executed

Irrigated Agriculture Modernization and Water Resources Management Scheme (IAMWARM).

This Project is to be implemented jointly by Water Resources Department and connected six Departments, Agriculture University, Veterinary and Animal Sciences University and Fisheries University. Under this scheme, works like restoration of 4,778 lakes, 477 anaicuts, construction of check dams, setting up water percolation wells in the water spread area of lakes and development of drainage canals in Cauvery tail end areas and other sub-drainage basins and irrigation canals, are to be implemented by the Water Resources Department in 4 phases at a cost of Rs.2,131 crore. The scheme is under implementation from January 2018.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Central Government assisted/shared National Agriculture Development Project (NADP)

With Central Government's financial assistance, works like construction of check dams, anaicuts and bed dams and restoration of water regulators are taken up at an estimate of Rs.21 crore under the National Agriculture Development Project. These works will benefit 2,541 acres of land. So far, 2 works have been completed at a cost of Rs.4.80 crore. Works costing Rs.16.20 crore are in progress in six Districts – Pudukkottai, Sivagangai, Thanjavur, Tiruppur, Vellore and Villupuram .

To protect the houses in Vallavilaithurai village in Vilavancode Taluk, Kanniyakumari District from sea erosion, two works for reconstruction of rubber mound sea wall (RMS wall) at a cost of Rs.94.50 lakh are to be started.

Schemes for interlinking rivers within the State

Pennaiyaru (Sathanur dam) - Seyyaru interlinking

Under this scheme, a 23.55 k.m. long new canal will be set up at a level of the full capacity of the Sathanur dam. This canal will be linked to Seyyaru on the western side of Alathur anaicut. A 27.72 k.m. long branch canal that will branch off from the main canal will join Thurinjal river, benefiting the ayacuts of Nandan canal. By diverting a portion of the surplus water of Pennaiyaru, through this scheme, 46,069 acres of land in the Taluks of Tiruvannamalai, Thandarampet, Chengam, Polur, Vandavasi in Tiruvannamalai District and Ginjee Taluk in Villupuram District will benefit.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Linking of Pennaiyaru (Nedungal anaicut) - Palaru

This scheme is designed to divert in the months of October, November and December, 3.5 t.m.c. of flood water in Pennaiyaru to Palaru. The detailed project report for this scheme is under the examination of the National Water Development Agency. When the scheme is implemented, 23,465 acres of land in Vaniyambadi Taluk of Vellore District will get irrigation facility through open wells and deep bore wells. The State environment impact evaluation commission has approved the guidelines for preparing environment impact evaluation report for this scheme. Steps are

taken to appoint a consultant for preparing the report. All measures will be taken to implement this scheme quickly.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Tamil Nadu is one of the most water deficient States in the Country. Still, the available water is effectively apportioned to meet the needs of drinking water supply, agriculture and industry. I wish to inform this House that this Government which functions on the path shown by Hon'ble Amma, will continue to take firm action in protecting the water resources of the State, in increasing the water resources through de-silting of lakes and anaicuts and through steps like construction of check dams and in getting Tamil Nadu's share of water from neighbouring States.

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT

1. Laying by-pass roads

Detailed project report will be prepared at a cost of Rs.4.68 crore for laying by-pass roads to Thittakudi in Cuddalore District, Perambalur town, Rasipuram in Namakkam District, Ooty and Coonoor in Nilgris District, Karamadai in Coimbatore District, Pattukkottai in Thanjavur District, Sathankulam in Thoothukudi District, a link road in State Highway 41 in Virudhunagar and to Vathalagundu in Dindigul District.

2. Road development in Municipal Corporations

A detailed project report will be prepared at a cost of Rs.5 crore for widening State Highway roads within the limits of the municipal corporations of Coimbatore, Thanjavur, Dindigul, Thoothukudi and Madurai, setting up foot paths with drainage facility and developing road junctions.

3. Construction of high rise bridges across rivers

A detailed project report will be prepared at a cost of Rs.50 lakh for constructing a high rise bridge across Thenpennaiyaru on Cuddalore-Chithoor road, Villupuram District and another across Palar to connect Kangeyanallur-Chathuvachari villages in Vellore District.

4. Extending Bridges

A detailed project report will be prepared at a cost of Rs.10 lakh for constructing a new branch bridge in the high rise bridge at Gandhipuram, Coimbatore District and extending the Ukkadam high rise bridge towards the Ukkadam side.

5. Developing infrastructure facilities in Madurai District

Four lane traffic new link roads will be laid from M.G.R. bus stand to Koodal Nagar Radio station in Madurai at a cost of Rs.50 crore. To reach the Kulamangalam area under the Sellur railway over bridge, a service bridge will be constructed in Vaigai river at a cost of Rs.3 crore. A detailed project report will be prepared at a cost of Rs.80 lakh for laying a link road from Madurai Natham road to Madurai Inner Ring Road and for widening the Pasumalai bound branch bridge of the railway over bridge on the Madakulam-Thiruparankundram by-pass road from two lane to four lane traffic road.

6. Widening of railway over bridges and construction of new ones

The railway over bridge at K.m. 20/8 on Mount-Poonamallee-Avadi road in Tiruvallur District will be widened at an estimate of Rs.12 crore. A detailed project report will be prepared at a cost of Rs.2.80 crore for construction of 7 new railway over bridges in the Districts of Kancheepuram, Nagapattinam, Vellore and Karur and one more railway over bridge on Chennai-Tiruttani road in Tiruvallur District.

7. Construction of office buildings

For the use of the Highways Department, a Divisional Office at Palani, Assistant Divisional Engineer office at Thandarampet, Tiruvannamalai District, Keeranur, Tirumayam and Alangudi in Pudukkottai District and Assistant Engineer Office at Kalasapakkam in Tiruvannamalai District, Cheranmadevi and Alangulam in Tirunelveli District will be constructed at a cost of Rs.2.65 crore.

8. Infrastructure facilities to Training Centre

Infrastructure facilities will be provided at a cost of Rs.3.50 crore for the Training Centre in the Highways Department complex. The Training Centre will enter into Memorandum of Understanding with Road Corporation of Victoria known as VicRoads, Anna university and IIT for providing the training. Steps will be taken to train 20 engineers, in two teams, in overseas countries with Tamil Nadu Road Development Funds.

9. Link road in Greater Chennai Municipal Corporation

A link road to a length of 650 metres will be laid at a cost of Rs.30 crore to connect Greenways Road and Durgabai Deshmukh road via Tamil Nadu Music College.

10. Flyover and Skywalk in Chennai and Tiruppur

A detailed project report will be prepared at a cost of Rs.3 crore for constructing a flyover at the Madhya Kailash area to link Sardar Patel road and Rajiv Gandhi road for reducing traffic congestion in Chennai Corporation, setting up a Skywalk on the Chennai Inner Ring road near Kendriya Vidyalaya school and a flyover from Pushpa theatre to Pandian Nagar in Tiruppur Corporation for reducing traffic congestion.

11. Construction of bridges with NABARD assistance

One-hundred-and-eighty-eight river bridges will be constructed in the current year on Government and panchayat union roads at a cost of Rs.638.50 crore with NABARD assistance to benefit 60 lakh people in 1,213 villages in 29 Districts.

12. Developing panchayat and panchayat union roads

2,000 k.m. long panchayat and panchayat union roads will be upgraded as other District roads and developed at a cost of Rs.800 crore.

13. Vehicles purchase for the use of Highways Engineers

New cars will be purchased at a cost of Rs.1.30 crore to replace the damaged 13 cars of

superintending engineers to help them monitor the quality of road works.

14. Procurement of machinery for the maintenance of upgraded roads

Tamil Nadu is a pioneer in implementing modern technology in Government Departments. To mechanise the maintenance of Highways Department's roads and for the maintenance of roads, pot hole repairing machines will be procured. In the first phase, 12 such machines will be procured this year at a cost of Rs.8.40 crore with maintenance expenditure for 3 years, for maintaining the Department's roads lying in Municipal Corporation areas.

15. Creating Information system on bridges

An Information set-up on bridges will be created after examining all the bridges of the Highways Department in the State and their present condition to help the maintenance of the Department's bridges.

16. Compilation of Project reports

Considering the mounting need for road infrastructure, it has become necessary to keep in readiness a compilation of projects with detailed project reports for them including the different developmental works for them. This readiness helps in the quick execution of the schemes besides getting funds from outside sources like Asia Development Bank and World Bank. A detailed project report will be prepared at a cost of Rs.133 crore for developing about 3,319 k.m. long roads at a cost of Rs.30,000 crore.

17. Road Safety Development scheme

Though best road construction, increasing vehicle population, the capacity of new vehicles and urbanization indicate economic growth, loss of life in a large scale due to accidents remains a great burden on the State. In the last 4 years. Rs. 1,360 crore worth road safety works were taken up. This year exclusive works for road safety at a cost of Rs.300 crore – Rs.200 crore under integrated road infrastructure development scheme and Rs.100 under road safety scheme – will be taken up additionally. To prevent accidents by improving road safety, a pilot project of involving the Departments of Police, Health, Transport and Highways together, will be tried in the District of Kancheepuram. On the east coast road, road safety will be ensured by upgrading, at a cost of Rs. 8 crore, the traffic management and the surveillance set-ups by using information technology.

18. Technical Hand book for Highways Engineers

Hand books containing details of Highways Department and its technical aspects will be prepared and distributed to all the engineers in the Department.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

1. Restoration of canals

To improve the carrying capacity of irrigation canals, the following canals and connected structures will be renovated /restored / rehabilitated: collapsed and damaged banks of Kandaleru Poondi canal in Uthukottai Taluk, Tiruvallur District from the point L.S.3.88 k.m.

to 10 k.m. at a cost of Rs.27.30 crore; Ayan Pappakudi kanmai canal in Thiruparankundram Avaniyapuram, south Taluk, Madurai District (Rs.7.20 crore), Tirukovilur anaicut, Malattaru channel L.S.0 metre to 2,400 metre in Ulundurpet and Tirukovilur Taluk, Villupuram District, Malattaru canal L.S.24,000 metre to 40,000 metre in Ulundurpet and Panruti Taluk, Villupuram Cuddalore District (Rs.23 crore), the Upparu reservoir's (Manachanallur Taluk, Tiruchi District) supply canals Omandur lake surplus channel and Peramangalam lake surplus channel (Rs.1.98 crore), sluices from mile 1/2 to 20/1 in Arakkankottai canal (Gobichettipalayam Taluk, Erode District) and branch canals (Rs.5 crore), supply channel to Puthira Koundanpalayam lake (Puthira Koundanpalayam village, Pethanaickenpalayam Taluk, Salem District) from L.S.0 metre point to 980 metre (Rs.3.50 crore).

2. Restoration of dam and basin dam

Restoration works will be taken up on Sellur anaicut across Vettaru (Kandiyur village, Valangaiman Taluk, Tiruvarur District) at the point 102.170 k.m. at a cost of Rs.1.50 crore and at the Mathur basin dam across Vettaru (Amaravathi Village, Valangaiman Taluk, Tiruvarur District) at the point 95.630 k.m. at a cost of Rs.1.50 crore.

3. Rejuvenation of lakes

De-silting of Panagudi lake at Nagapattinam Taluk and District at a cost of Rs.3.50 crore, repairing of Mudikondan Kanmai in Sivagangai Taluk and District at a cost of Rs.66 lakh, construction of retaining wall to Erumaikulam lake and developing the banks of Upparu, below the Thamarakki road bridge (both Sivagangai Taluk and District) at a cost of Rs.89 lakh, sprucing the approach road to Seevalaperi tank (Tenkasi Village, Tenkasi Taluk, Tirunelveli District) at a cost of Rs.70 lakh, restoration of Parakirama Pandian tank at Gangaikondan village, Tirunelveli District at a cost of Rs.43 lakh and repairing of the sluice and weir of Thovalai Periakulam in Thovalai Taluk, Kanniyakumari District at a cost of Rs.91 lakh will be taken up.

4. Renovation Works

To improve the capacity of irrigation channels, renovation works on the following irrigation related structures and set ups will be taken up. Fixing rollers in the 19 shutters in Chembarambakkam lake (Sriperumbudur Taluk, Kancheepuram District), repairing the structures on the sides and in the bottom as also 24 water letting gates at a cost of Rs.2.25 crore, converting Peranai regulator (Anaipatti in Nilakottai Taluk, Dindigul District) and the shutters in the Periyaru main canal and in the link canal into electrically operated ones and upgrading the shutters at a cost of Rs.4 crore, repairing river and irrigation sluice gates in the left and right side main canals of the Marudha nadhi dam (Aathur Taluk, Dindigul District) at a cost of Rs.2.10 crore, designing the entrance of power station-2 of the Solayar anaicut (Valparai Taluk, Coimbatore District) as a garbage filtering one, manufacturing and transporting it at a cost of Rs.2.62 crore, replacing the corroded semi-circular water expeller in the 3rd water

letting device of the Melneeraru anai (Valparai Taluk, Coimbatore District) and designing, manufacturing, transporting to platform and fixing propellers, electro-magnetic preventive device and inspection platform at a cost of Rs.3.72 crore, designing, manufacturing and fixing a new garbage stopper in the place of the old one at the beginning of the tunnel canal in Parambikulam dam (Palakad, Kerala State) and converting the gates at L.S.4,000 metre into electrically operated ones at a cost of Rs.5.20 crore, repairing the corroded gates of the Upparu Odai Regulator (Thoothukudi District) at a cost of Rs.7.40 crore, restoration of the Gounda Nadhi river (Thirumangalam Taluk, Madurai District) from Arasapatti anaicut to Kuraiyur anaicut at a cost of Rs.3.30 crore, restoration of Aswamanadhi river (Usilampati Taluk, Madurai District) from L.S.0 metre to 12,500 metre at a cost of Rs.90 lakh, renovation of cross-cutting structures across Upparu (Sivagangai District) and restoring Upparu at a cost of Rs.15 crore and repairing of the bunds of Nallaru in Avinasi Town (Tiruppur District) at a cost of Rs.4.75 crore.

5. Construction of new causeways and foot bridges

The following works will be taken up: a causeway on Palar between Maligai Thoppu in Ambur town and Thuthipattu Village to benefit villagers and students (Aambur Taluk, Vellore District) at a cost of Rs.2 crore, a foot bridge in Kattalaimettu channel at the point mile 1/7, in Thirukambuliyur Village, Krishnarayapuram Taluk, Karur District at a cost of Rs.50 lakh, a foot bridge in the same channel at the point mile 2/2 in Pitchampatti village at a cost of Rs.50 lakh, a foot bridge in South Bund canal at the point mile 3/7 in Krishnarayapuram in the same Taluk at a cost of Rs.50 lakh, a foot bridge in the same canal at the point mile 1/3 in Thirukambaliyur village at a cost of Rs.50 lakh and another foot bridge in the same canal at the point mile 3/4 in Krishnarayapuram village (Valayapalayam) at a cost of Rs.50 lakh.

6. Extensive inspection of water bodies for Environment Safety and Pollution

Extensive inspections in 8 lakes will be undertaken for environment safety and pollution in water bodies and a project report will be prepared. It will be done at an estimate of Rs.53 lakh.

7. Improving infrastructure facilities - irrigation Division

The following works will be taken up: special maramathu works for the divisional and sub-divisional offices of Environment Cell division and Plan and Design in Madurai, Tirunelveli and Tiruchi at a cost of Rs.50 lakh, construction of new buildings for Quality Control sub-division office in Salem District, Lower Vaigai Basin sub-divisional offices and for their two section offices (Tiruvadanai Taluk, Ramanathapuram District) at a cost of Rs.80 lakh, renovation of the irrigation management training institute office building in Tiruchi District at a cost of Rs.1.03 crore and development and maintenance of models of irrigation structures of the Institute of Hydraulics and Hydrology (Poondi, Tiruvallur District), Inspection Bungalow and park at a cost of Rs.1.10 crore.

8. Distribution of cars to Chief Engineers of PWD Water Resources Department

For effective field inspections, 3 new cars, costing Rs.36 lakh will be given to the Chief Engineers of the Water Resources Department to replace the old ones.

9. Development of infrastructure facilities building division

The following works will be taken up: New computers and spare parts for the Chennai Zonal office of the Principal Chief Engineer and Chief Engineer (Building Division) at a cost of Rs.41 lakh, 21 new jeeps for Assistant Executive Engineer working in the sub-divisional office (Building division) at a cost of Rs.1.30 crore, 3 new cars to the Chief Engineers at a cost of Rs.36 lakh, 100 `C' type quarters for Government servants at Madurai, Madurai District at a cost of Rs.25 crore, renovation of heritage building at Chepauk, Chennai at a cost of Rs.20 crore, new building for the Chennai office of Chief Engineer (Building), Chennai Zone at a cost of Rs.25 crore, four residential buildings for Hon'ble Ministers at Adyar, Chennai at a cost of Rs.9.86 crore and renovation of the fire damaged heritage building at Chepauk, Chennai at a cost of Rs.36.38 crore.

News in Picture

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** flagged off at the Secretariat in Chennai on 03.07.2018 , 515 new buses, costing Rs.134.53 crore, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation for the benefit of the public. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister **Thiru. O.Panneerselvam**, Hon'ble Ministers, the Chief Secretary, and high Government Officials were present on the occasion

Two industrial parks to boost growth, create jobs

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami in the Legislative Assembly
under Rule 110 on 13.06.2018 *(English Translation).*

INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

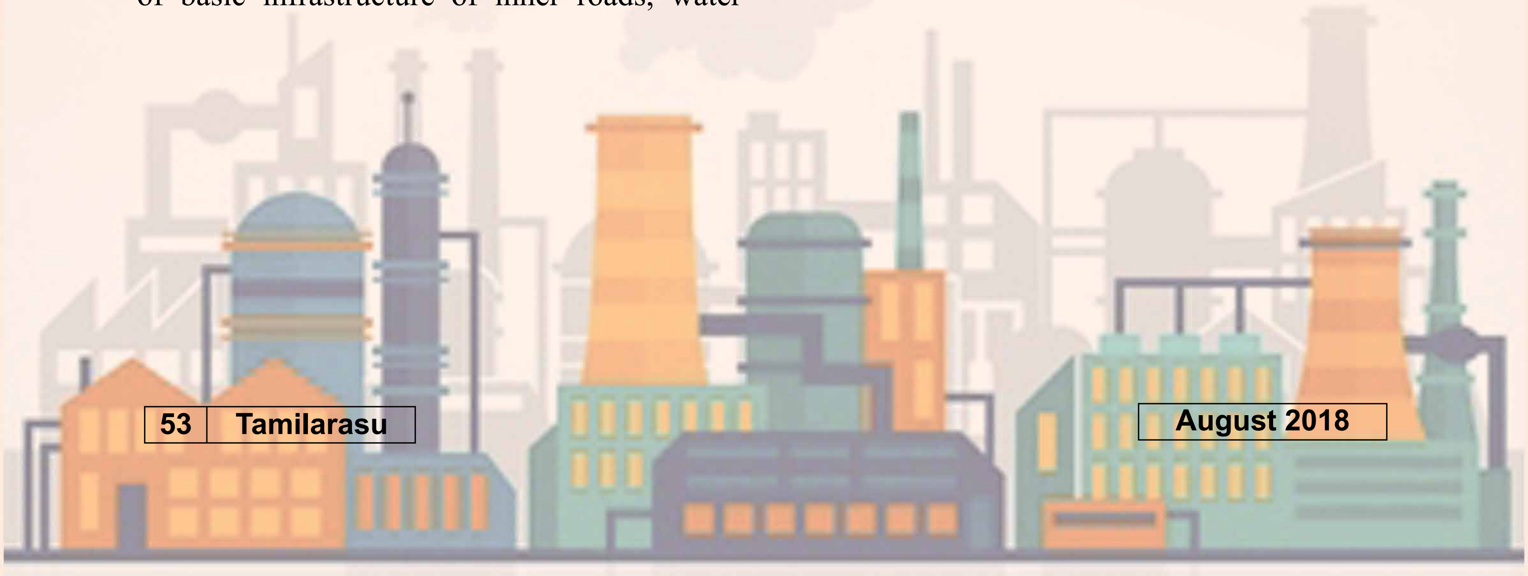
Industrial development is essential for the economic growth of the country. To encourage it, Hon'ble Amma's Government has been framing conducive industrial policies and taking many steps to attract industrial entrepreneurs to Tamil Nadu. To take those steps forward, I make the following announcements in this House.

1. The Small Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) is setting up an industrial park on 1,077 acres of land spread over the revenue Villages of Kannudayanpatti, K.Periyapatti and Chatrapatti in Manapparai Taluk, Tiruchirapalli District. It will provide jobs for 5,000 persons. SIPCOT will take up at a cost of Rs.96 crore the creation of basic infrastructure of inner roads, water facility, storm water drainage, planting avenue trees and street lights in this park.

2. Another industrial park is being set up by SIPCOT on an area of 720 acres spread over the Revenue Villages of Pela kuppam, Kollar and Venmaniyathur in Dindivanam Taluk, Villupuram District. The industrial park will create job opportunities for 5,000 persons. SIPCOT will create basic infrastructure facilities in this park like inner roads, water supply, storm water drainage, avenue trees and street lights at a cost of Rs.52.50 crore.

MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT

I am making the following announcements in this House which will be implemented by the Micro, Small and Medium Industries Department.



1. The Tamil Nadu Government proposes to frame and implement a "Tamil Nadu Start-up and Innovation Policy 2018-2023" to help upgradation of technological innovation and goods and ensure a healthy environment for startups. This policy can render all help to efficient people in all fields and entrepreneurs to execute their innovative thoughts and become the best industrial entrepreneurs. The policy will seek to achieve the 11 percent growth per year in the State Gross Domestic Product, envisaged in the "Tamil Nadu Vision – 2023" document.

2. The maximum subsidy for the beneficiaries under the New entrepreneur cum enterprise development scheme (NEEDS) will be increased from Rs.25 lakh to Rs.30 lakh on par with the capital subsidy given to micro, small and medium industries.

3. The SIDCO Industrial Estate Phase-II will be set up at an estimate of Rs.84 crore on 70.33 acres of land in Alathur Village, Thiruporur Taluk, Kancheepuram District in the financial year 2018-2019.

4. Subsidy will be given to innovation-oriented micro, small and medium industries through the start up credit scheme, for shaping an innovation through the advice of experts in innovation/technology or for doing experimentation through educational institutions or research laboratories on innovative models and products. This scheme is successfully implemented in many Countries. The main aim of this scheme is to improve the innovative skills of the micro, small and medium industries. Through this scheme a maximum of Rs.5 lakh will be given as subsidy for 400 industrial entrepreneurs for introducing innovations and for rectifying technological complications of a minor nature with the help of consultants. To implement the scheme, about Rs.20 crore will be spent per year. This scheme will also greatly help in identifying easily degradable alternative articles to plastic goods and implement the ban I had announced in this House on 05.06.2018 on "use and throw plastic goods".

5. A set up – Micro, small and medium industrial commerce and investment development corporation – will be created to make Tamil Nadu's micro, small and medium industries multi-nationals, get co-operation from overseas Countries and to attract investments from within the State. This organization will be the co-ordinating agency for the single window scheme for getting permits for the micro, small and medium industries in the State, speedily and in time. I am happy to state that it will also function as the co-ordinating agency for entering into agreements, in stages, with commercial and industrial set ups, proposers of investment policy, companies and organizations.

DEPARTMENT OF HOME, ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND PRISON

I make the following announcements to be implemented by the Department of Administration of Justice.

1. Own building with a parking lot for two wheelers and residential quarters will be constructed for the Kanniyakumari District Civil and Sessions court at Boothapandi in that District at a cost of Rs.4.52 crore.

2. The Ramanathapuram District Civil and Sessions court building and residential quarters will be constructed at Rameswaram, in that District at a cost of Rs.6.85 crore.

3. Two additional court rooms and offices will be constructed for the sub-court and magistrate courts in the upper floors of the Integrated Court building at Panruti, Cuddalore District at a cost of Rs.3.20 crore.

4. For the Theni District Civil and Sessions Court at Aandipatti, an integrated building with a restaurant and parking space for two wheelers and two residential quarters with car sheds will be constructed at a cost of Rs.6.67 crore.

5. A building for the Villupuram District Civil and Sessions Court at Sankarapuram with parking lots for cycles and vehicles, restaurant, toilet and quarters with compound wall will be constructed at a cost of Rs.8.29 crore.

6. An integrated court building and residential quarters will be constructed at Palladam, Tiruppur District at a cost of Rs.5.25 crore.

7. Quarters for the sub-judge and District and sessions judge will be constructed at a cost of Rs.1.60 crore at Arur, Dharmapuri District.

8. Quarters will be constructed for the sub-judge at Thuraiyur, Tiruchi District.

9. Quarters for 6 judges in Tiruvannamalai District will be constructed at a cost of Rs.3.80 crore.

10. A residential building will be constructed for the judge of the Fast Track Court at Kallakurichi, Villupuram District.

11. An additional District and Sessions court will be set up at a cost of Rs.83 lakh at Padmanabhapuram, Kanniyakumari District.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I make the following announcements pertaining to the Prison Department.

1. In view of the space constraint in Puzhal Central Prison – 2, Chennai, additional facilities will be created at a cost of Rs.15.90 crore to accommodate 500 more prisoners.

2. Fifty residential buildings will be constructed at a cost of Rs.10.86 crore for the sub-Prisoners, working in the Puzhal Central Prison – 2 and in the Prisons at Vellore, Cuddalore, Tiruchi, Coimbatore, Salem, Madurai and Palayamkottai.

3. To prevent prisoners from using mobile phones, mobile phone jammers have already been installed at 9 central Prisons. In continuation of this, in the current year such jammers will be installed at a cost of Rs.10.10 crore at Puzhal Central Prison – 1 & 2, Chennai, Tiruchi, Madurai, Palayamkottai Prisons and in 5 exclusive women prisons.

SOCIAL WELFARE AND NUTRITIOUS MEALS SCHEME DEPARTMENT

I make the following announcements connected with the Department of Social Welfare and Nutritious Meals Scheme.

1. Tamil Nadu Government set up Homes to provide security and basic amenities to destitute girl children. The one at Madurai – Annai Sathya Government Children's Home – is functioning from a Municipal Corporation's building from 1986. As the building is highly damaged, a new building, dormitory, children's welfare room, class room, vocational training hall and a dining hall will be constructed at a cost of Rs.5 crore.

2. A new building with modern infrastructure facilities will be constructed at a cost of Rs.4 crore for the Government Children's home for boys at Panjapalli in Dharmapuri District.

3. Under the Integrated Child Development Scheme, 54,439 anganwadi centres are functioning. Of these, 46,397 are functioning from own buildings. I wish to inform that Rs.17.20 crore will be allotted for undertaking repair works, minor and major, in 860 anganwadi centre buildings at the rate of Rs.2 lakh for each.

DEPARTMENT FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED

Hon'ble Amma's Government that functions in the footsteps of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has been framing many policies and schemes for uplifting the living standards of differently-abled persons, boosting their self confidence and providing equal opportunities for them. As a continuation of these efforts…

1) The honorarium of special teachers and trainers working in voluntary organizations dedicated to the mentally retarded, visually impaired and hearing impaired will be increased from Rs.10,000 to Rs.14,000. This will benefit 1,129 special teachers and trainers and Government will incur an expenditure of Rs.5.42 crore per year.

2) To become self-employed, differently-abled persons have to pay a security deposit of Rs.25,000 to the Aavin establishment for opening a sales centre for its products. That amount will be given as subsidy. In the first phase, this scheme will be implemented for 100 persons at a cost of Rs.25 lakh.

3) 11,948 differently-abled persons are benefited by the 301 special schools and homes run by the Department for Welfare of Differently Abled Persons. Their monthly food allowance will be increased from Rs.650 to Rs.900. The Government will incur an additional expenditure of Rs.3.15 crore per year. With this, I resume my seat. ■

Ninety per cent subsidy for solar power pump

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly
on 14.06.2018 under Rule 110 *(English Translation)*

Hon'ble Speaker sir,

Hon'ble Amma's Government has been taking a number of steps to improve agriculture and ensure a prosperous life for farmers. To take these measures further, I would like to make the following announcements.

To harness solar power, which is available in abundance, the Tamil Nadu Government formulated the Solar Policy in the year 2012 and has been implementing it. So far, 3,112 solar power pumps and 181 solar dryers have been set up at a subsidy of Rs.117.24 crore. Those who are already enjoying free power and those who have applied for free power will be given 90 percent subsidy for installing the solar power pump if they surrender the free power facility.

Taking into consideration the demand for solar pumps among farmers, apart from the 500 solar pumps to be installed in delta Districts under the Kuruvai cultivation package scheme, another 500 solar pumps will be installed in non-delta District at 90 percent subsidy. Totally 1,000 solar pumps will be installed in the State.

There has been an increasing demand for small millets, especially sorghum, saamai and varagu, due to health reasons. To encourage cultivation of small millets by farmers, the Government has planned to distribute Rs.8.62 crore in the current financial year for seed production, distribution, setting up of demonstration plots, integrated crop protection and nutritional management.

Tamil Nadu stands second in the Country in banana cultivation, which is a water-consuming crop. As the Government does not want the area of cultivation to be reduced due to water shortage, it has decided to distribute Rs. 27.83 crore to farmers as subsidy for cultivating banana in 10,000 acres through micro irrigation technique.

By adopting high tech farm activities, quality production is ensured. The State Government is to sanction Rs.10 crore to grow vegetables in a protected environment by setting up green houses and shadow net, and to set up pandal and mulching for fruits and vegetables which are grown in climbers and creepers.

Very good job opportunities are available for diploma holders in horticulture. Now the diploma course in horticulture is being taught in Madhavaram Horticulture Centre by Horticulture and Plantation Crops Department. To increase the number of diploma holders in horticulture, the State Government has decided to introduce the Diploma course in horticulture in the Horticulture Research and Training Centre in Thally in Krishnagiri District, and in the Centre of Excellence for Vegetables in Reddiarchatram in Dindigul District from the current academic year. These two centres will offer two-year diploma courses in Horticulture with an intake of 50 students each every year. The two centres will get the affiliation of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and function under the Horticulture and Plantation Crops Department. The Government will also sanction Rs. 2 crore for improving infrastructure and additional facilities in these two centres. Moreover, the Madhavaram centre, which is offering diploma course in Horticulture will also be affiliated to the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and the diploma course will be conducted by the Horticulture Department.

At present there are Integrated Agricultural Extension Centres in 146 divisions, housing offices of the Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Agriculture Engineering, Agricultural Marketing and Seeds certification with godown and conference hall facilities. These centres, constructed at a cost of Rs.219 crore provide valuable information to farmers about extension activities of all agriculture allied Departments at one place. I am happy to announce in the current year that the agricultural extension centres will be constructed in 9 more divisions at a cost of Rs.19 crore.

Uthagamandalam, popularly known as Queen of Hill stations, is over 200 years old and is one of the main tourist centres in the State. In view of the increasing number of tourists to the Botanical Garden every year, it has been decided to set up a new park known as Bicentenary Green Lawn at a cost of Rs.10 crore. As more than 10 lakh tourists are visiting the Government Rose Park every year, there has been frequent traffic congestion in the town and the tourists are finding it difficult to park their vehicles. Taking this into consideration, it has been decided to set up a vehicles parking station, with a capacity of 500 vehicles, in Uthagamandalam at a cost of Rs.3 crore.

I am happy to say that due to schemes worth totally Rs.127.45 crore, announced by me, farmers' livelihood and agriculture in Tamil Nadu Agriculture will prosper further.

Handlooms, Handicrafts and Khadi Departments

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Next to agriculture, the textile industry is the main livelihood for people in rural areas, creating direct and indirect employment and also improving export earnings. For the development of the textile industry, the State Government, treading the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is giving priority to the textiles industry. In continuation of its efforts, in the current financial, I am announcing the following schemes in the House.

Distribution of dhotis and sarees is being implemented every year with the twin purpose of ensuring continuous employment to handloom and powerloom weavers and meeting the clothing demands of poor people living both in urban and rural areas. To provide continuous employment to all handloom and

pedal-loom weavers, the following additional manufacturing schemes are to be implemented.

To provide continuous employment to handloom weavers throughout the year, from the coming Pongal 2019 to June, additional manufacturing schemes will be implemented.

Under the distribution of dhotis and sarees at no cost scheme, 9,692 pedal looms are involved in manufacture of dhotis and sarees for six months from July to December and the remaining 1,558 pedal looms will be given additional manufacturing scheme for the above six months.

Under the distribution of free dhotis and sarees scheme, 6,975 pedal looms are involved in manufacturing dhotis and sarees. The remaining 4,275 pedal looms will be given additional manufacturing scheme for five months from February to June under the free dhotis and sarees scheme.

Every year, for the 11,250 pedal looms which remain unemployed during the month of January, one more additional manufacturing scheme will be implemented under the free dhotis and sarees scheme. For this the Government will incur an additional expenditure of Rs.15 crore.

With a view to develop the textile industry further in the State, in the current year an international textile exhibition will be conducted at Codissia Hall in Coimbatore at a cost of Rs.2 crore.

Processing clothes for uniforms distributed by the Tamil Nadu Government's free uniform distribution scheme is the main work of the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Textile Processing Mill. The mill functions continuously for seven months from February to August every year for processing the clothes for uniforms. For the remaining 5 months the mill functions less than its capacity due to want of sufficient clothes. Taking this into consideration, the State Government is to set up a dyeing unit costing Rs.4 crore at the Mill to provide continuous employment to the workers of the mills when the mill does not have sufficient clothes for processing. The dyeing unit will have a 2 tonne capacity of dyeing 60s combed yarn.

Tamil Nadu stands first in the production of raw silk. At present two multi-grade cold storage units are functioning, one each in Hosur and Krishnagiri in Krishnagiri District with a preservation capacity of 20 lakh silk worm eggs each. To increase the production of raw silk worm eggs one more multi grade air-conditioned preservation unit with a capacity to process 20 lakh silk eggs will be set up at a cost of Rs.1.50 crore.

At present the silk reeling units are not adequate in number to make full use of the cocoons in the State. So, to strengthen the silk reeling units during the post cocoon stage, the Government is to provide financial assistance for setting up silk reeling units in the current year.

To set up 3 automatic silk reeling units of 400 ends, Rs.1,05,77,000 will be provided by the State Government.

For setting up one automatic silk reeling unit with 200 ends Rs.19.96 lakh will be given.

For automatic Dupion silk reeling unit Rs.11.44 lakh will be allocated.

For setting up 25 multi-end silk reeling units of 100 ends, the State Government share will be Rs.1,06,81,000.

Two private silk twisting units and one Government silk twisting unit will be set up and for these units Rs.40.04 lakh will be allocated as the Government share.

International Yoga and Naturopathy Centre at Chengalpattu hospital

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami at the Tamil Nadu Legislative on 25.06.2018 under Rule 110 (*English Translation*).

The Amma Government, which is treading the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been implementing various welfare schemes to provide quality medical service to all people, especially to poor and the downtrodden. In this connection, I am happy to announce in the House the following new schemes of the Public Health Department.

1) Yoga and Naturopathy play a major part in preventing and controlling non-communicable diseases, which are caused due to changes in life style of people. For the first time in the country, to encourage Yoga and Naturopathy, an International Yoga and Naturopathy Centre of world standard will be set up on a 50 acre site in Chengalpattu Medical College campus at a cost of Rs.50 crore. In this Centre, graduate and post-graduate courses and hospital with research facilities, students hostels, and employees' quarters will be established. Adequate staff will be appointed for the centre. In this centre, yoga treatment, natural food treatment, water treatment, acupuncture, acupressure, magnetic treatment, herbal treatment, clay treatment, massage treatment, and colour treatment will be provided under natural environment.

2) 985 Health sub-centres in Tamil Nadu will be upgraded as Integrated Health and Welfare centres at a cost of Rs.82.02 crore.

3) Three more floors (4th, 5th, and 6th floors) will be added to the present Stanley Hospital, Chennai at a cost of Rs.55.55 crore so that all specialist Departments function at one multi-storied building.

4) To facilitate outpatients at the Chennai Rajiv Gandhi Government Hospital, four more floors (5th to 8th floor) will be constructed in the present outpatient building at a cost of Rs.42.88 crore.

5) To provide additional facilities taking into consideration the increasing number of patients at the Government Taluk Hospitals in Sirkali, Tiruttani, Omalur, Tiruchendur, Paramakudi, Panruti and Arani additional buildings with ground plus two floors will be constructed at a cost of Rs.30 crore.

6) For treatment of cancer patients at the Madurai, Coimbatore, Tirunelveli and Salem Government Medical College Hospitals, CT Simulator with 'Brachytherapy' and Bunker instrument will be installed at a cost of Rs.22 crore.

7) To reduce the number of causalities due to road accidents, Tamil Nadu Accidents and Emergency Care Scheme is functioning in the State. Under the scheme, 64 Government Hospitals including 20 Government Medical College Hospitals, 25 District Government Headquarters Hospitals and 19 Taluk Hospitals, will be supplied modern equipment for their Emergency Care Centres, at a cost of Rs.21.27 crore.

8) Taking into consideration that the TB Patients should be given the most nutritious food, 96,200 TB patients will be given Nutritious food in the current year, at a cost of Rs.20.20 crore.

9) With a view to protecting the well-being of mother and children, a Maternity and Children Welfare Centre will be set up at Kumbakonam District Headquarters Hospital in Thanjavur District at a cost of Rs.20 crore.

10) In the current year, women's hostels will be constructed in the Government Nurse Training Schools in Kancheepuram, Nilgiris and Nagapattinam at a cost of Rs.20 crore.

11) At present 12 Government Auxiliary Nurse Training Schools are functioning under the General Health and Diseases Prevention Medicine Directorate in the State. To strengthen the infrastructure of these schools in the current financial year, new buildings will be constructed at a cost of Rs.17.20 crore for the Auxiliary Nurse Training Schools in Egmore, Poonamallee and Villupuram.

I am happy that the announcements made by me in the House will make the Government Hospitals in the State function more efficiently and provide high-tech medical facilities to the poor and the downtrodden in the State.

Chief Minister's categorical word on Sterlite closure

Clarification of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly to the Leader of the Opposition on Sterlite Factory on 26.06.2018 (*English Translation*).

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Hon'ble Amma's Government took a decision to shut down Sterlite factory and is taking steps to implement it. The Sterlite management applied to Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board for permission to continue the factory's operation. By way of fulfilling the wishes of the people, Amma's Government endorsed the requests of leaders of many political parties. On that basis, the Pollution Control Board refused to give permission on 09.04.2018 and cancelled Sterlite management's application. The District Collector publicized the Government's action through the newspapers in Thoothukudi on 14.04.2018. Everyone knows this. Action can be taken step by step. To assess the State of Affairs in the factory after the cancellation of the permission, a team went and inspected the factory on May 18, 2018. On the basis of the report it submitted, electricity to the factory was cut off. So, as far as the Government is concerned, necessary action is being taken.

At a time when the demands of the people there are being carried out gradually, I feel some politicians and leaders of some political parties, are deliberately acting in this way in a pre-planned manner out of an anxiety that this Government will get a good name through

its action. I am saying this because there is no need for an agitation there when steps are being taken to shut down the Sterlite factory. I am inclined to think that this event has been manipulated to create an issue unnecessarily to create a crisis. I have mentioned here the steps we have taken to shut down the Sterlite factory. I wish to point out – I am not making an accusation – that it is wrong to plan and create an issue unnecessarily. Your wish is being carried out by the Government. I convey to the Leader of Opposition through You (Hon'ble Speaker) that we have taken steps to shut down the Sterlite factory.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

There are more than one lakh factories in Tamil Nadu. There is a law governing the functioning of the factories. The law is doing its duty. This factory (Sterlite) too comes under that law. Action for the shutting down of this factory has been taken as per law. So, there is no need for a Cabinet meeting for taking the action. Even if the Cabinet meets, ultimately, the matter will come to the Chief Minister only. It cannot be sent to Delhi. The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court accepted this point when it was placed before it. All the factories are governed by this law. Whether the factory is set up on an investment of Rs.5 crore, Rs.50 crore or Rs.5,000 crore, the law is common to all. So there is no necessity for convening a cabinet meeting separately for each and every factory. I wish to inform the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition through you (Hon'ble Speaker) that the Government has taken the decision and notified it, after consulting senior officials and legal luminaries.

Birth Anniversary of Rettamalai Srinivasan

In connection with the Birth Anniversary of Rettamalai Srinivasan on 07.07.2018, Hon'ble Ministers, Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Text Book Society and Educational Services, MPs, MLAs, and Government Officials, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, offered floral tribute to his portrait placed near his statue in Gandhi Mandapam in Chennai

Many steps to de-stress Police personnel, family members

Explanation of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 26.06.2018 on Government measures for de-stressing Police Personnel and their family members *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Police officers and constables get highly stressed on account of round-the-clock duty without rest and while facing people's problems and handling agitations. Members of their families too get stressed as the Police Personnel are unable to spend sufficient time with their families and attend to household works. The stress experienced by the family members affects their physical and mental health.

1. Stress management courses are conducted regularly to deal with mental tension brought about by family environment, health and job conditions.

2. Week-end classes are held by yoga experts in all the 12 Police Districts in Chennai and about 20,000 Police Personnel benefit from this.

3. Twelve training classes were conducted for women constables on 'work life balance' by an NGO of psychologists/psychiatrists and about 1,500 persons were benefited.

4. For solving the grievances of constables, the Greater Chennai Police Commissioner, receives petitions every Saturday from Police Personnel and appropriate action is initiated on them.

5. Besides, a 'Grievances Redressal Day' camp, headed by the Director General of Police, was held on 17.02.2018 at Rajarathinam Stadium. In this camp, 1,194 Police Personnel presented their grievances through petitions including those in respect of transfer and wage anomalies, in the presence of the Greater Chennai Police Commissioner and other high officials. Appropriate action is being taken on them.

6. Sports competitions were held for the family members of Police Personnel on Pongal Festival Day and prizes were distributed.

7. Steps are taken to create a congenial atmosphere and thus remove tension in constables by holding Inter Zone Volley ball competition and track events for Greater Chennai constables.

8. By presenting prizes and incentives to children of constables who have scored high marks, families of constables are enthused.

This Government that functions in the footsteps of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has decided to provide psychological training to Police Personnel, jointly with the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Science (NIMHANS), Bengaluru for removing their stress and tension. The Government issued a G.O. on 22.06.2018, allotting Rs.10 crore for this course. For starting this course immediately, another G.O. was issued on the same day, sanctioning Rs.60.47 lakh towards preliminary expenditure. This training programme is to start shortly. I wish to inform this House that Police Personnel and their families will greatly benefit from this programme.

Gutka seizure, arrests in aftermath

Clarification of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 26.06.2018, on police action over illegal manufacture of gutka in Coimbatore (*English Translation*).

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

On a tip off that pan parag and gutka were being manufactured and sold in Nallammal Garden, Kannampalayam Village in the Sulur Police range, Coimbatore District, the District Police raided a factory, functioning in the name 'Amith S. Fragrances' in the said premises on 27.04.2018 and learnt from the manager of that company, on enquiry, that the factory belonged to Amith Jain of New Delhi and that it illegally manufactured and sold the banned commodity gutka. The police registered a case against Amith Jain and some others and started investigation.

During the course of the investigation, police arrested the manager Raghuram and employees Ajay, Ramdev and Sojiram and recorded their confessional statements. Also, the police seized from the premises 200 bags of areca nut, 10,520 k.g. of powdered areca nut, 150 k.g. of cardamom, 95 k.g. of tobacco, 1,540 k.g. of lime powder, 477 k.g. of Kutta powder, 3,24,000 two gram VIP gutka packets, 3,52,800 two gram 'Pathan' packets, 25,500 four gram 'Pathan' packets and the equipment used for the manufacture of pan parag and gutka. The arrested four persons were then remanded to judicial custody.

When the factory was being raided, about 25 persons, under the leadership of Singanallur DMK MLA Karthik, staged an unauthorized demonstration near the factory, tried to enter the factory, prevented the police from discharging their duty and threatened them. A criminal case was registered in this connection and seven persons including Thalapathy Murugesan, former President of Kannampalayam Town Panchayat were arrested and remanded to judicial custody. MLA Karthik and Thangaraj obtained advance bail in this case.

In this situation, 350 persons, under the leadership of former Minister Pongalur Palanisamy, tried to stage a sit-in strike at the office of the Police Superintendent on 02.05.2018, demanding the release of the arrested DMK persons and the withdrawal of cases filed against them. They were arrested and released. Stressing the same demand, about 3,500 persons under the leadership of the leader of the opposition Respected Thiru. Stalin staged a demonstration near the office of Tahsildar, Coimbatore South on 04.05.2018.

In the investigation, it came to light that Amith Jain of New Delhi was manufacturing pan masala and gutka in Nallammal Garden from September 2011. He was producing pan masala under the name 'Pathan' after gutka was banned in 2012 and was later secretly producing gutka under the names 'Pathan' and 'VIP', by collecting the raw materials for their production. The products were dispatched to some places including Madurai. It was also learned that Amith Jain had obtained

licence from the Department of Tamil Nadu Food Safety and Drug Administration for the manufacture of pan masala and sweet supari, valid up to 22.07.2018.

It also came to light that Thalapathy Murugesan, former President of Kannampalayam Town Panchayat was helpful in the construction of the factory without building licence, non-initiation of any action against the factory on complaints from the public and payment of property tax on a reduced value of the asset. He also assisted Amith Jain even after knowing that gutka was illegally manufactured and sold in the factory, and concealed the fact. On this basis, Thalapathi Murugesan was again arrested in this case on 10.05.2018 and remanded to judicial custody.

As the factory was manufacturing the banned gutka, the District Food Safety Officer, Coimbatore, cancelled the licence given to the factory on 10.05.2018.

A special team has been formed to apprehend the first accused in this case, Amith Jain and it is probing him intensively. Cases are under investigation.

As the Hon'ble Member stated, police take action only against culprits. I have mentioned all these things with details. There is still more; I have spoken briefly as I don't want to take much of your time. I have given a detailed picture of that (former) President of the Town Panchayat. He has been arrested on the basis of investigation as it has come to light that he is involved in this. I wish to convey to the Hon'ble Member through you (Hon'ble Speaker) that no innocent person has been proceeded against.

'Tamil Nadu followed the rules in DGP appointment'

Clarification of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 05.07.2018 on the Supreme Court's order over the appointment of Director General of Police *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The First Bench of the Supreme Court, headed by the Chief Justice of India gave an interim order on 03.07.2018 in the case filed by Thiru. Prakash Singh and others pertaining to reforms in the Police Department.

In its interim order, the Supreme Court clearly mentioned, quoting the Attorney General Thiru. K.K.Venugopal, that of 29 States, only 5 States, including Tamil Nadu had sent proposals to the Union Public Service Commission for preparing the selection list for appointment to the post of Director General of Police and other States had not followed the procedures prescribed by the Supreme Court earlier.

I wish to point out that appointment of DGP in Tamil Nadu has been done following the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order that is in vogue. In its interim order given in the above case on 03.07.2018, the Supreme Court has pronounced some new procedures. I wish to state that in the coming years, Tamil Nadu will follow these procedures. Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition Congress Party has given a viewpoint that the DGP should not hold office for more than two years. It is not like that. The correct interpretation is that the DGP should hold office continuously for 2 years from the date of appointment. I wish to inform the Hon'ble Opposition leader through you (Hon'ble Speaker) that appointment of DGP in the past had been done as per rules.

‘Government will take steps to expedite appointments to police posts falling vacant’

Clarification of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami in the Legislative Assembly on 26.06.2018
on posts in the Police Department (*English Translation*).

Hon’ble Speaker Sir,

Hon’ble Leader of the Opposition referred to the vacancies in the Police Department. Hon’ble Amma’s Government has appointed 20,173 Constables from 2011 to 2017; 1,041 Sub-Inspectors, 39 Deputy Superintendents of Police, 128 persons in Police Band team, 1 District Fire Officer, 15 Station Fire Officers and 791 Firemen – totally 22,188 personnel till 2017.

In 2017-2018, 12,604 Constables were appointed; Deputy Superintendents of Police 60 and Firemen 1,434 – totally 14,098 persons were appointed. So, from 2011-2017 to 2017-2018, 32,777 Constables, 1,041 Sub-Inspectors and 99 Deputy Superintendents of Police have been appointed. Totally 36,286 persons have been appointed.

As for vacancies, some go to court on some occasions. Appointments can be made only after the disposal of the cases. In respect of the post of Director General of Police (DGP), of the 6 posts, 5 have been filled up and one is vacant; Additional DGP – of the 27 posts, 24 have been filled up and 3 posts are vacant; Inspector General of Police – of 43 posts, 34 have been filled up; Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of police – of the 34 posts, 27 have been filled up; Superintendents of Police – of 137 posts, 134 have been filled up; Additional SP posts - 117 persons have been appointed for the 137 posts; Dy.SP posts - of the 830 posts, appointments have been made to 720 posts. As some persons have gone to the court, promotions are pending.

As for Police Inspector, for 2,875 posts, 2,842 have been appointed leaving a vacancy of 33; for the 9,912 Sub-Inspector posts, 8,543 persons have been appointed, leaving a vacancy of 1,369 posts; as for the posts of special Sub- Inspector/Head Constable/ Constable Grade-I/Constable Grade-II, for the 1,10,234 posts, 1,01,140 persons have been appointed and 9,094 posts are yet to be filled up. Government will take steps to fill up all these vacancies. All the 849 posts of Superintending Officers have been filled up. As for Helpers, for 1,570 posts, 1,239 persons have been appointed leaving a vacancy of 336, Junior Assistants for 1,358 posts, 1,107 have been appointed and for 810 posts of Office Assistants, 694 have been appointed.

These vacancies will be filled up gradually as selection is to be made by the TNPSC. In the past, recruitment would start only after an incumbent retires. When the recruitment starts, some retirees go to court on some issue or other like denial of promotion, delaying the recruitment. In some instances, filling up of the vacant posts, caused by retirement, takes one to one-and-a-half years. The Government will take steps to recruit in advance, personnel for the posts falling vacant in a year due to retirement and fill them up immediately so that there will be no vacant posts in the coming years.

M.G.R. Chair with corpus fund of Rs.1 crore

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 28.06.2018 under Rule 110 *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Tamil is the Mother of all languages, ever youthful, productive, pure, valiant and as one that has defined the ethics of living. The Tamil Nadu Government is functioning on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in honouring and spreading Tamil globally. By way of furthering its efforts to glorify the Tamil language, I make the following announcements in respect of this Department in this House.

1. The International Institute of Tamil Studies, inaugurated by Perarignar Anna, is doing research in many ways on the lives of those who toiled for Tamil society and publishes them for the benefit of the present and future generations. By way of commemorating

former Chief Minister, Makkal Thilagam Bharat Ratna Dr. M.G.R.'s centenary and to do research on his deep social concerns, service to the arts, Tamil sentiments and to the people, for the benefit of people in the Country and for foreigners, I am happy to announce that a Chair, with a corpus of Rs.1 crore will be created in the International Institute of Tamil Studies with the name 'Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Art and Social Development Research Chair'.

2. It was Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who first introduced the wonderful scheme of creating Chairs in the front-ranking universities in the Country for developing Tamil. In continuation of this, Chairs will be created for the Tamil language, in the first phase, in Oxford University, England, Johannesburg University in South Africa, Malaya University in Malaysia, Jaffna University in Sri Lanka, and in Foreign Countries where the Tamil population is large and in other States. For this, an allotment of Rs.5 crore will be made every year.

3. To help Tamil migrants all over the world and in Indian States safeguard the Tamil language, arts and culture, the Tamil organizations in those places will be integrated and their literary services – Tamil research, books of Tamil writers, translated works etc., will be co-ordinated. For achieving this, an International Tamil Organisations Conference will be held once in two years at a cost of Rs.5 crore. Research forums, seminars, poets forums, speeches, patti mandram, literary tour, World Tamils cultural event will be the features, among other things of the conference.

4. English scholars compile English words in an orderly fashion and present them to linguistic researchers. Realizing that such a compilation is necessary for the Tamil language which is considered as the foremost among ancient languages, a thesaurus will be launched. In this, all the Tamil words will be compiled and categorized with their grammatical description and with added provisions for synonyms, word formations, meanings, presentation of oft-searched words with colouring, elimination of repetitive words and recording of new words. It will be designed in a way as to be accessible through the internet for use by Tamil scholars, enthusiasts and linguistic researchers. A recurring expenditure of Rs.1 crore will be allotted every year for this.

5. To encourage post graduate students studying Tamil at the International Institute of Tamil Studies, a monthly scholarship of Rs.2,000 each will be given, from this year to 15 students in the first year of study and 15 students in the second year of study – totally to 30 students. I am happy to inform this House that a recurring expenditure of Rs.7.20 lakh will be allotted per year for this.

HINDU RELIGIOUS & CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT

Regarding the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department, I make the following announcements.

1. For the convenience of devotees, a 'Yatri Nivas' will be constructed on a site belonging to Tiruchendur Arulmigu Subramania Swamy

temple, Thoothukudi District, at a cost of Rs.30.75 crore from the temple funds.

2. For repair and renovation works in revenue-starved 1,000 village temples under the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department, Rs.10 crore will be distributed from temple fund at the rate of Rs. 1 lakh per temple.

3. To undertake repairs in 1,000 village temples, not coming under the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department, and located in the residential areas of Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes, Rs.10 crore will be distributed from the temple fund at the rate of Rs.1 lakh per temple.

YOUTH WELFARE AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Besides developing the body, physical education and sports greatly help in promoting mental strength, fellow-feeling and communal harmony. For the development of sports, Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing many schemes including creation of excellent sports infrastructure, distribution of incentives and regulated training facilities. In furtherance of this, the following announcements are made.

1. A District Sports Complex will be set up at a cost of Rs.17.35 crore in Vellore District. Among other facilities, the complex will have a 400 metre track, visitors' gallery, administrative office, turfs for hockey, basketball, kabbadi, go-go, shuttlecock and tennis, a swimming pool and a gymnasium.

2. It is proposed to implement an 'incentive scheme for winning medals at international competitions', for identifying the skills of sports personnel, training them and creating conditions for them to win medals at international events. Under this scheme, 50 sports personnel, men and women, including 5 differently-abled ones will be selected and a subsidy, up to Rs.10 lakh each on the basis of needs, will be given for purchase of equipment, undergoing special coaching abroad and for participation in competitions. For this, Rs.5 crore will be spent every year.

3. To set up a coaching complex for National Cadet Corps personnel, 2.02 hectares of land has been allotted in the Neerpair village, Madurantakam taluk, Kancheepuram District. To be set up at a cost of Rs.5 crore, the complex will have a parade ground, a hurdling training centre and rifle shooting ranges of 25 metres and 50 metres. In this complex, 18,000 students will be trained in a year at the rate of 600 at a time.

4. There are excellent sports personnel in Tamil Nadu, capable of winning medals in shuttlecock competitions at International level. To encourage them, a "shuttlecock academy" will be set up in the Physical Education and Sports University at a cost of Rs.10 crore. I resume my seat, informing the House that this academy will help in identifying the skills of sportsmen/women by utilizing the various sports science laboratories in the University and prepare them for international competitions.

Chief Minister clarifies on quantum of Cauvery water release to State

Explanation of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 02.07.2018 regarding the decisions taken at the first meeting of the Cauvery Management Authority, held New Delhi on 02.07.2018 (English Translation).

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Interrupting the proceedings of the House, Hon'ble Deputy Leader of the Opposition wanted to know how much water would be made available to Tamil Nadu for this month. As per the Supreme Court's judgment, the Central Government constituted the Cauvery Management Authority and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee. The first meeting of the Authority was held on 02.07.2018 at New Delhi and it lasted for nearly 4 hours. Thiru. Masood Hussain, Chairman of the Cauvery Management Authority, who presided, said it was a historic occasion. A good decision was reached today through that historic Cauvery Management Authority and it directed that 31.24 t.m.c. ft. water should be released to Tamil Nadu for this month, July.

The Authority gave this directive after taking into account the storage in Karnataka dams as obtained by the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee. Also, we will get water on a monthly basis. The inflow into Karnataka will be calculated once in every 10 days and the available water will be shared with us. This is a historic achievement. For the month of June we should get 9.19 t.m.c. ft. of water. Actual receipt was 11 t.m.c. ft. of water. As for the month of July, the Karnataka Government should give us 31.24 t.m.c. ft. of water. I am happy to inform this House that the Authority has passed the order that the Karnataka Government should release to us 31.24 t.m.c. ft. of water within the month of July.

Hon'ble Deputy Leader of Opposition said that if his memory did not fail him, the release of water should be 42 t.m.c. ft. for this month. It is not so. As for the month of July, the quantum of water to be supplied by Karnataka to our State, is 31.24 t.m.c. ft. of water only. This includes the share of water to neighbouring Puducherry. For the following months, the release of water (in t.m.c. ft.) will be August : 45.95, September: 36.76, October : 20.22, November: 13.78, December: 7.35, January : 2.76 and from February to May : 2.50 t.m.c. ft. – totally 177.25 t.m.c. ft. This is as per the judgment of the Supreme Court. I convey to the

Hon'ble Deputy Leader of the Opposition that this release of water will be given as a directive by the Authority and implemented by the Regulation Committee.

ON CONVENING AN ALL-PARTY MEETING:

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has expressed the view that an all-party meeting should be convened and the matter discussed. The Supreme Court has already given a clear judgment and has firmly stated that it will be in operation for 15 years. The judges have also clearly mentioned how it will be implemented.

While directing the constitution of the Cauvery Management Authority and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee, the judgment clearly states the number of persons to be appointed to the Authority, the number representing the Central Government and the number, to represent the States; likewise to the Regulation Committee. On that basis the Centre has also constituted the Authority and the Committee. The Union Government asked the State Governments to nominate their representatives and Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry forwarded their lists first. When Karnataka Government was silent, the Union Government appointed those members on its own. Immediately, the Karnataka Government appointed its representatives to the Authority and on the Regulation Committee.

The two bodies have been constituted and they have started functioning. The first meeting of the Cauvery Management Authority is being held today. As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has stated, this is sort of giving a shape to what we have achieved after a very long struggle. The agenda for the meeting, prepared by the Central Government on the basis of the Supreme Court judgment will be discussed thoroughly. That is why we have briefed our representatives to the meeting in detail after exhaustive consultations with Senior Ministers, Ministers from Delta Districts, High Officials and Government Lawyers on how we have to act and what are the positive aspects of the judgment for us. We can proceed for action after getting details of the proceedings in that first meeting.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has stated that the Karnataka Government is again filing a petition in the Supreme Court. As per that court's verdict, our share of water has been fixed at 177.25 t.m.c. ft. of water. There is no change in this. On that basis alone, the monthly supply to us has been mentioned clearly. Once in 10 days, the two bodies will meet and examine how much water has been released to our State and direct water supply to us on that basis. As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has stated, we have to wait and observe how things go. After assessing the execution of the Central Government, the Cauvery Management Authority and the Cauvery water Regulation Committee in terms of the Supreme Court judgment, we can convene an all-party meeting, if there is a need for it, and take necessary further action.

Better safety for belongings at Adi Dravidar, ST hostels

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 05.07.2018 under Rule 110 *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

1. For the safety of the belongings of students staying in the 1,367 hostels, functioning under the Department of Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare, separate iron gates with locking facility, will be fixed to the already provided R.C. almirahs, in accordance to the number of students there. This will be done at a cost of Rs.27.34 crore at the rate of Rs.2 lakh for a hostel.

2. For the tribals in the five Districts of Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Salem, Dharmapuri and Vellore, a total of 250 houses, at the rate of 50 houses for each District, will be constructed at a cost of Rs.7.50 crore (Rs.3 lakh per house). Also, 5 teams with 10 members in each, will be formed in each of these Districts and Rs.2.50 crore will be given at the rate of Rs.10 lakh for each of the 25 teams so as help them start a trade and use their skills to improve their livelihood.

CO-OPERATION, FOOD & CONSUMER PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Amma's Government, functioning on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is framing excellent schemes and is implementing them through the Department of Co-operation, Food and Consumer protection. I am making the following announcements for the Department.

1. Taking into account the traffic congestion in the Chennai South Zone of the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation, a three-tier storage facility with modern technology and mechanical applications will be constructed at suburban Maraimalai Nagar at a cost of Rs.75 crore.

2. Three modern technological paddy storage structures with a capacity of 15,000 metric tonnes each will be set up at a cost of Rs.90 crore at the Civil Supplies Corporation's modern rice mill complexes at Pollachi, Tiruvarur and Thalaiyuthu.

3. The godowns of the Civil Supplies Corporation will be modernized at a cost of Rs.40 crore and made into automated godowns by equipping them with modern machinery like forklift, stacker cum loader, automatic weighing and packing machine.

4. In the 300 own godowns of the Civil Supplies Corporation, the asbestos roofs will be replaced with modern roofs of galvanized

iron sheets. In the current year, this will be undertaken in 100 godowns at a cost of Rs.45 crore.

5. I am happy to announce that provision of essential needs like road facility, drainage, rooms for porters, drinking water and setting up Genset, will be undertaken at a cost of Rs.50 crore in the master plan complex godowns on a priority basis.

Hon'ble Amma's Government, functioning on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is keen on strengthening and developing co-operative movements. Towards this basis, I am happy to make the following announcements.

6. Own buildings will be constructed in the current year for co-operative institutions at 117 places at a cost of Rs.26.09 crore with assistance from Co-operative Research and Development Fund.

7. Works costing Rs.9.85 crore will be taken up to modernize co-operative societies and banks at 94 places with assistance from Co-operative Research and Development Fund.

8. The Central Co-operative Bank will start 14 new branches at a cost of Rs.2.10 crore with a view to provide services to bank customers near their places of residence.

9. I resume my seat, informing that fertilizer godowns with a capacity of 1,000 metric tonnes each will be constructed for Tamil Nadu Co-operative Marketing Federation at Ariyalur and Perambalur at a cost of Rs.1.80 crore with the help of Co-operative Research and Development Fund.

News in Picture

Under the Presidentship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, the 20th Governing Board meeting of the Zoo Authority of Tamil Nadu was held in Arignar Anna Zoological Park in Vandalur in Kancheepuram District on 24.07.2018. Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Thiru. Dindigul C.Sreenivasan, Chief Secretary Dr.Girija Vaidyanathan,I.A.S., and high Government Officials participated in the meeting.

'Statistics show crimes are less during AIADMK rule'

Clarification of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami in the Legisltive Assembly on 09.07.2018
on the law and order situation in Tamil Nadu (English Translation)

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition tried to give a picture in this House that crimes on this scale had taken place only in AIADMK's rule and gave a list of those crimes also. I am duty-bound to point out with statistics how the incidence of crimes was in the DMK's rule.

Murders at the end of AIADMK's rule in 2005 totalled 1,366; at the end of DMK's rule in 2010, the number was 1,715; in the AIADMK's rule in 2017, it came down to 1,466. That is, in the DMK's rule, the annual rate of crime was increasing by 5.1 percent and this got reduced to 2.1 percent in Hon'ble Amma Government's rule.

Likewise, murder for gain was 74 in 2005, the number rose to 153 in 2010 and came down to 94 in 2017. That is, the rate of increase was 21.4 percent every year in DMK's rule but in AIADMK's rule it came down to 5.5 percent per year.

As for gang murders, the number of cases was 73 at the end of 2005, but rose to 83 at the end of 2010 and in 2017, 97 such cases were filed. That is, in the DMK's rule, these cases were increasing by 3.3 percent on an average every year and in Hon'ble Amma's rule, they were increasing only by 2 percent on an average. Murder, robbery cases were 437 at the end of 2005; the number rose to 1,817 in 2010; in 2017, 1,850 such cases had been filed.

In DMK's rule, these cases were increasing by 63.2 percent on an average every year; in Hon'ble Amma's rule, the increase was just 0.3 percent.

In respect of house-breaks, the number of cases in 2005 was 3,738; in 2010, the number rose to 4,715; in 2017, 4,751 cases were filed. In DMK's rule, the rate of increase per year of these cases was 5.2 percent; in AIADMK's rule, the increase was 0.1 percent only.

So, in your rule also, murder, dacoity, burglary and all crimes occurred; don't deny it. But the number of crimes can be brought down. Whichever party comes to power, the incidence of crime cannot be prevented. It can be reduced. This is a global phenomenon. Even in United States of America, 30-40 people are gunned down at the same time nowadays. As for Tamil Nadu, crimes have been brought down. I wish to inform the Hon'ble Deputy Leader of Opposition through You (Hon'ble Speaker) that Police are taking adequate measures for that.

You mentioned about chain snatching. There were no CCTV cameras earlier. Now they have been fixed at all places. This has helped in the launching of quick action wherever such crimes take place and nabbing of the culprits. I wish to convey through you (Hon'ble Speaker) that Amma's Government have taken appropriate steps to fix CCTV cameras, not merely in Chennai City, but in all Municipal Corporation areas across the State to prevent chain snatching incidents and trace and punish the culprits in these crimes.

Crime against women was also brought into the debate. In the earlier DMK regime between 2006 and 2010, the total number of cases filed in connection with dowry deaths, molestation, sexual harassment and rape, was 14,707. In the 7 year AIADMK rule from 2011 to 2017, 18,672 cases had been filed. I wish to inform the Hon'ble Deputy Leader of the Opposition through you (Hon'ble Speaker), that these cases that were of the order of 2,941 on an average every year in the DMK's rule had come down to 2,660 in the AIADMK's rule.

He had also mentioned that constables were made to work as orderlies in the houses of high officials. I wish to remind him that the same practice was in vogue in your rule also; at present, Amma's Government is taking steps to dispense with this practice. Through you (Hon'ble Speaker), I inform the Hon'ble Member that the Government is taking action to relieve those working as orderlies with high officials of the Police Department and separately appoint office assistants to them.

It was mentioned here that police officers had died of mental depression. In your rule also such things had happened. I too have data on it. This happens in all regimes. On some occasions, family issues become the cause for such suicides. To prevent them from going into depression, Government gives them the necessary training, that is, it gives them yoga training. Steps are taken to help them to get peace of mind. Family members are given counselling. I inform the Deputy Leader of the Opposition through you (Hon'ble Speaker) that the Government is taking appropriate action to bring down their stress levels.

Stand on sand

Clarification of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 26.06.2018 on sand quarrying *(English Translation).*

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I have already explained this in this House. Hon'ble Amma's Government is taking severe action against illegal quarrying of sand. I have stated clearly how much fine was levied for such acts; in the earlier DMK rule how much penalty was levied and after Hon'ble Amma's Government took over administration, what severe action is being taken against illegal sand miners. Illegal mining has been stopped by the Government in many ways. Still some such incidents take place here and there. The Government is devising ways to prevent such incidents also.

Severe conditions have been laid for excavating sand. If sand has already been excavated in a particular place, further exploitation in that place is not allowed; only a limited quantity is allowed; even for that sufficient space should be left in between the two places of excavation; there should be a path also. So many hurdles are there. Opening of new quarries also is subject to these rules. Hence many operators go to court. This involves delay. As for Government, I inform the House through You (Hon'ble Speaker), it is taking steps to open more quarries and distribute sand in a fair manner to the general public and to the construction industry. Police and Revenue Departments jointly take action in all possible ways to control illegal quarrying of sand.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

For the protection of water bodies, Government wants to gradually reduce the utilization of sand. To achieve this objective, people are requested to use M-sand. An awareness is being created in them. Even today, there was an agitation in Tiruvallur area when a sand quarry was opened. Likewise, in many places, farmers and members of the general public agitate when sand quarries are started. So, steps are taken to start quarries where sand is available in plenty. Still, I wish to inform through you (Hon'ble Speaker), that Government has held discussions with farmers, as their interests are involved, brought about a conciliation, and excavated sand after assessing the quantum of sand available there and distributed it, to the extent possible, to the public and construction industry. Also, Government is taking steps to import sand from abroad and distribute it to people. Through you (Hon'ble Speaker) I inform the Hon'ble Member that tenders have been floated in this connection and they are in the stage of finalization.

'Students must take a pledge to love and respect elders'

Message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami on the occasion of 'World Elder Abuse Awareness Day' (*English Translation*).

Ageing is unavoidable. Every one advances towards ageing while walking in the long path of life. Honouring aged people is a sign of a society with good values. It is the duty of everyone to take care of elders, who cared for us when we were young. Ageing is like another childhood and elders expect true love and affection from their near and dear ones. It is the duty of young people to embrace the feet of elders who have seen the ups and downs of life.

The Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Government has implemented many special schemes for the welfare of elders.

Old age pension of Rs.1,000 is being given to 15.50 lakh destitute elders in the State.

In Chennai alone, about 3.12 lakh elders are benefited by the free bus pass scheme for aged persons introduced by the Hon'ble Amma.

The food subsidy for the inmates of the Government Old Age Homes has been increased from Rs.300 to Rs.1,200 homes since 2016.

For the first time in the Country, the State Government allotted Rs.1.65 crore for anti-pneumonia vaccine for the inmates of Government-aided old age home in the State.

The United Nations has declared that every year June 15 should be observed as 'World Elder Abuse Awareness Day' . Following this, the Tamil Nadu Government is also observing June 15 as 'World Elder Abuse Awareness Day'. In this connection pamphlets are printed and distributed to all schools and colleges in the State to create awareness about the need for respecting the sentiments of elders. I request the students to take a pledge on this occasion that they would take care of elders in their homes and would not use harsh words that would affect the elders both physically and mentally. They should respect the sentiments of elders. In public places such as hospitals, banks and bus stands they would give preference to elders and prevent violence against elders in any form.

Chief Minister inaugurates two-way railway overbridge at Podanur

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 16.07.2018, declared open a two-way railway overbridge (RoB) at Podanur in Coimbatore District, constructed at a cost of Rs.22.60 crore through video conferencing.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated 7 bridges across rivers, and 2 more railway overbridges, at Cuddalore, Tiruchirappalli, Dharmapuri, Tiruppur, Erode, Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli Districts, all constructed at a cost of Rs.137.74 crore and dedicated these bridges for public use.

As road infrastructure plays a vital role in the socio-economic development of the State, the State Government, treading the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is keen on increasing the capacity of roads to keep pace with the increasing traffic, laying roads of quality, constructing new bridges wherever necessary and maintaining the roads and bridges.

As a part of such measures, the Podanur overbridge inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister will benefit the people in Pothanur, Vellalur, Mettur, Konavaikalpalayam Kuruchi and Chettipalayam. The two-way railway overbridge will ease traffic flow on the North Coimbatore-Podanur-Chettipalayam Road.

Branch roads from the railway overbridges to Madurai and Central Bus stand at the Tiruchirappalli M.S.P Camp Road in Tiruchirappalli District, constructed at a cost of Rs.74 crore;

Railway overbridge at Kumarasamipettai, built at a cost of Rs.22.60 crore in Dharmapuri District; a bridge at Pazhaiyur on the Valavadi - Therkkuboodhanam Road, constructed at a cost of Rs.1.65 crore; a bridge on the Puliankudi-Sankarankovil-Kazhugumalai-Nalatinpudur Road, built at a cost of Rs.2 crore in Thoothukudi District; a bridge at K.Thalavaipuram on the Palayamkottai-Crosscut Road-Kulathur-Pandalkudi-Aruppukottai Road, constructed at a cost of Rs.2 crore; and a bridge at Surandai in Tirunelveli District on the Shenkottai-Pavurchatram Road, constructed at a cost of Rs.4 crore. Totally 3 railway overbridges, and 7 river bridges, all costing Rs.160.34 crore were declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami.

Clarification on Salem railway overbridges

Clarification of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami in the Legislative Assembly on 02.07.2018
on the construction of railway overbridges in Salem (*English Translation*).

Hon'ble Speaker,

Tenders have been floated and work will start soon in respect of (the construction of an overbridge at the) railway level crossing No.183 at Anaimedu, Salem. There are some problems in the acquisition of land. The work of solving those problems is also proceeding. I would like to inform, on this occasion, that a tender has been finalized for the Anaimedu area. Likewise, tenders have been floated for the Cherry road railway level crossing No.184, Mulluvadi gate, Salem. Land acquisition work has been started for this also. You know very well that there are houses on either side of the roads. After negotiating with the house owners and getting consent letter from them, lands will be acquired and construction work will start shortly. At one place, estimates have been prepared and work is about to start. Another is railway level crossing No.185 at Mulluvadi gate. I convey to the Hon'ble Member through you (Speaker) that Government will take steps to commence work there also after a detailed project report has been prepared.

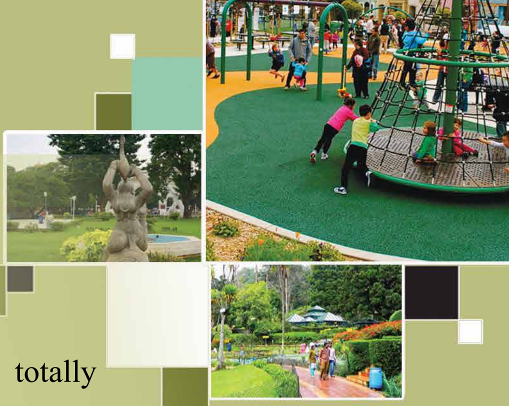
Chief Minister opens 13 parks, 2 improved children's parks

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami at the Secretariat in Chennai on 16.07.2018, declared open a park, constructed at a cost of Rs.85 lakh on Ramachandran Street in Santhosh Nagar in Mugalivakkam, Kancheepuram District through video conferencing on behalf of the Chennai Corporation.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated on the occasion, on behalf of the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, 13 parks and 2 improved children parks, ward and area office buildings and underground drainage schemes, at a cost of Rs.102.19 crore.

The major task of the local bodies is to provide civic facilities in proportion to the growing population in urban areas, drinking water and health facilities. To encourage the local bodies, which implement these important tasks, the Tamil Nadu Government, following the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been implementing various schemes in an exemplary manner.

In this connection, on behalf of the Chennai Corporation, a park was declared open at Ramachandran Street in Santhosh Nagar in Mugalivakkam in Kancheepuram District by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami through video



conferencing on 16.07.2018. He also opened 2 parks in Ennore Tsunami Colony, AIR Nagar, and Balakrishna Nagar (Glass Factory) under Tiruvottiyur Division, set up at a cost of Rs.84 lakh.

The details of other parks and schemes is as follows:

Six parks at Puzhal - Vegetarian Village; Gangadharan Street; Puthagaram - Surapet; Kathirvedu - Padmavathi Nagar Service Road near Birla Avenue; Kathirvedu - Padmavathi Nagar 7th Street; and Ponniamman Medu in Thanikachalam Nagar, under Madhavaram Division, totally costing Rs.2.72 crore;

Three parks in Tirumangalam Main Road in Mogappair, VGP Nagar (Near Varun Apartments), and Veerama Munivar Street (Opp. MGR Adharsh School), costing totally Rs.1 crore under Ambattur Division;

Two Parks in Annai Velankanni Nagar Phase-II in Mugalivakkam and in Rajiv Gandhi Road (Near Dollar Building) in Sholinganallur, under Alandur Division, costing totally Rs.1.10 crore;

Improved children's playgrounds in T.V.S. Colony 45th Street and Officers' Colony under Ambattur Division, which are developed at a total cost of Rs.51 lakh; a ward building, constructed at a cost of Rs.49 lakh at Padi Pudhu Nagar Main Road and Ward and Areas Office Buildings at Padi Kuppam Colony, costing Rs.53 lakh;

Underground Drainage Schemes at Surapet (Rs.35 crore) and Puthagaram and Kathirvedu, both under Madhavaram Division on behalf of the Chennai Metro Water and Sewerage Board.

Totally, Rs.103.04 lakh worth of schemes of the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department were declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

News in Picture

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** at the Secretariat in Chennai on 16.07.2018, declared open new buildings for two Sub-Registrar Offices, one in Avadi in Tiruvallur District and the other in Ponnamaravathi in Pudukkottai District, constructed at a total cost of Rs.1.40 crore.